FOGHORN

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST OSBORNE GROUP **FOG**

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The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. The ***FOGHORN*** is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription providing bulk mail delivery to an address in the U.S. is included with membership in FOG for $24.00 per year. See chart below for the additional postage required for other locations. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

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FOG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), with NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF. The submissions can be sent on diskette by mail (to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474), copied to a FOG diskette at a First FOG of Silicon Valley meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or the FOG RCP/M at (415) 755-2030. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience. If you send your contribution on disc and specify the disc you would like, we will overwrite your disc with one from the library.

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Commercial Advertising

Commercial advertisements must be submitted as camera ready copy.

Size limitations for advertising are as follows:

full page: 7" x 9.5"
half page: 3.5" x 9.5" or 7" x 4.75"
quarter page: 3.5" X 4.75"

Rates, effective with the March, 1984 issue are:

$450/full page, $250/half page, $175/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available. Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

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Submission Deadlines

All material is due two months in advance of the month of publication. (October 1st for the December issue). No exceptions will be made for advertising material. This change is necessary if the ***FOGHORN*** is to be mailed before the first of the month. Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

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Back Issues — Reprints

Reprints of ALL back issues are available. The current cost of back issues is $1.50 per issue to partially cover reprint and mailing costs. Non U.S. members should include funds for AIRMAIL postage. Donations of additional sums will be gratefully accepted.

Not all issues are of value to new members. Vol. 1 No. 1 (October, 1981) was primarily a greeting and a plea for help in getting this group going. Vol. 2 No. 3 (December, 1982) was a 2 page issue with holiday greetings and an advertisement for SuperGraphics. Mailed with this issue was a copy of the original bylaws which have since been modified several times.

There were 11 issues in Vol. 1 since we put out a combined issue for June and July, 1982. For those who are attempting to determine which copies from Vol. 1 are of interest, Vol. 2, No. 2 (November, 1982) has a partial index for Vol. 1. November, 1983 (Vol 3, No. 2) has a partial index for Vol. 2.

Include your account-membership number. Please send the order to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Orders are shipped once a week. The index to the previous year is published in the November (#2) issue.

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Copies of Library Disks

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from the FOG office if copies cannot be obtained through their local group. Individual disks are $5.00 each. Bulk orders or 10 or more disks earn a discount of $1.00 per disk. ***NO blank disks*** may be sent in to have library disks copied to them.

Shipping and handling charges are $5.00 per order or address. This $5.00 charge must be included with every order. Please be sure to include your account-membership number. Orders without this number will be delayed since no disk orders will be shipped without this number.

For a listing of the programs and files in the library, consult the library column in each issue of Vol. 2 (except No. 3 — December, 1982). The section of the library called - FOG/LIB includes both Jim Woolley's material from the library column and a catalog program which lists the name and disk location of each program (but no descriptions).

In response to the many requests, we have published a typeset guide to the library. This has the descriptions of every disk in the library as well as the guidelines for library use. It is a loose leaf, binder punched volume. This format was selected to facilitate updates. Each copy will be in a portfolio. The price is $5.00 which includes shipping by 3rd Class (surface mail). Update pages will be offered approximately on a quarterly basis.

Affiliated Members Organizations (AMO) may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an Affiliated Member Organization may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades c/o FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474 (phone 415-755-4140) for further details.

New additions will be sent to participants in the monthly update service as soon as copies can be made.

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Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations

Rebates of 25% of the membership rate ($24.00) will be made to Affiliated Member Organization (AMO) on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the group MUST be on the membership form (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the Affiliated Member Organization is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for Affiliated Member Organization status must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a list of the officers — names and FOG membership number — and a signed copy of the group bylaws. For further details, request an AMO information packet.

It is not necessary that a group be affiliated when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the group receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

The Board of Trustees has approved a minor change in the rebate policy for groups who are Affiliate Member Organizations. If the AMO has a checking account, the treasurer may collect membership dues for renewing or new members and forward only $18.00 (plus appropriate postal surcharges) to FOG. This allows the group to have immediate access to the rebate funds. Please note that the two requirements for this change will be strictly enforced. ***No personal checks will be accepted.***

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Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent ***FOGHORN*** together with the new address either in an envelope marked "CHANGE OF ADDRESS" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

You should also request that the post office forward any issues that arrive before your address change is posted. You must tell the post office that you will pay forwarding charges since bulk mail is NOT automatically forwarded.

FOG cannot be responsible for additional postage charged because a member delays sending in a change of address.

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Additional Postage Charges

Your membership in FOG ($24.00) covers delivery by Non-profit bulk mail. This rate is only available to members who have bulk mail delivered by the U. S. Postal Service. For those who either cannot receive U.S. bulk mail or prefer first class delivery, please add the appropriate amount (from the chart below) to your payment.

The following is a list of additional charges which must be included with new or renewal memberships effective 9/1/83:

Canada & Mexico (First Class) ..... ADD...$ 6.00
Members with U.S. addresses who prefer First Class delivery to Non-profit bulk mail ..... ADD...$ 6.00
Central & South America, Caribbean, & Europe (Airmail First Class delivery) ..... ADD...$12.00
Asia, Africa, & Far East (Airmail First Class) .. ADD...$15.00
Out of North America preferring surface mail — delivery not guaranteed ..... ADD...$ 6.00

If you want the new rates to take effect for your current membership, you may prorate the above charges for the remaining term of your membership. For each month remaining, send 1/12th of the above rates.

For those with U.S. addresses who elect to continue receiving their ***FOGHORN*** by Non-profit bulk mail, we have some suggestions for improving delivery. The post office guidelines say that bulk mail can only be traced by the recipient but that delivery in the San Francisco Bay Area should take about seven working days and to the East Coast about 15 working days. We are now taking the bulk mail to the post office before the first of each month. If you are not getting timely delivery of the ***FOGHORN*** you should contact your local postmaster. If he is unable to improve the situation, there is a complaint form at each post office. We have been assured that all complaints are pursued promptly.

We are now paying return postage for all undeliverable copies of the ***FOGHORN***. This allows us to better identify problems. FOG will be responsible for costs incurred remailing a ***FOGHORN*** only if the member has provided us with the correct address in a timely manner. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to drop us a note listing all of the specifics.

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Please help

It is essential that you include your account-membership number in all correspondence. ***Omitting your membership number will needlessly delay shipment of your order.*** It is **not** necessary to write a separate check for each different order. Consolidating your requests and sending only one check will save the staff considerable time.

* * * * * * *

FROM THE FOG

Election of Officers

by Frank Morton

In the last issue of the **FOGHORN** we told you the outcome of the annual election. So you already know who are the ten members of the new Board. On April 12th we held our first meeting of this new board and this writer was re-elected to the position of President and Chairman of the Board. I am happy to continue to serve you in this position with FOG. It is my hope and confidence that with your help and support FOG will continue to grow, to become a voice for the interests of computer users everywhere, and to keep on serving the needs of the swelling ranks of computer novices and enthusiasts. In addition, I sincerely appreciate the mandate of your very large popular vote for Gale and I. We interpret this as a sign that many of you think we are headed in the right direction. We shall continue to follow our instincts to do what we believe to be in the best interest of all of our individual FOG members.

The Board elected Phil Moore to the position of Vice-President. Phil has been active in helping a Sam Mateo county FOG group to get going between Silicon Valley and San Francisco. I am looking forward to working with him and having his able assistance. Physically, Phil is located between where I live and the FOG office. That should be helpful at times. Bob Kavinoky was re-elected as Corporate Secretary. He has been of the utmost help, and we were very happy that he expressed a willingness to continue in that role. The position of Treasurer was voted to Fran Weber. She has been very helpful with our financial concerns in the past and has experience on the Board. I am certain that she is an excellent choice for the job.

Those are the elected officers of the Board. They form the Executive Committee. The other officers are appointed. They will continue in the roles they have so successfully performed in the past. This includes Gale Rhoades as Executive Director of the FOG Office, David Oates as Editor of the **FOGHORN**, Jim Woolley as Disk Librarian, and Jim Schenkel now as our paid Corporate Legal Counsel. Although no longer a voting member of the board, his comments and suggestions often have a decisive effect on our voting. All of us on the Board are committed to providing the best service organization we can for price of your dues.

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A Notice about OSMOSIS

From the Board

On April 12, 1984, at a regular Board meeting, the Board of Trustees of the First Osborne Group approved the following resolution:

> WHEREAS there are several confirmed complaints from members regarding the failure of The OSMOSIS Co. to respond in a timely manner to difficulties involving the use of their products and WHEREAS the company has not responded in a timely manner to restore defective merchandise to proper operating condition, be it now RESOLVED that the Executive Director shall not accept any further advertising from The OSMOSIS Co. or its principal, Ian Kitching, until further action by this board or a designated committee thereof.

This motion was carried unamimously.

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Attitudes & Appreciation

by Frank Morton

In a sense, the topic for this month is sort of a continuation from last month. I had observed that the flavor of the West Coast Computer Faire seems to have changed somewhat. It also appears that the attitudes of the whole industry, and of the computer users as well, may also be changing. Since the direction of this change is negative, I hope that I am wrong.

I understand from the FOG office that the impatience and insistence of some callers is getting more pronounced. We think that the monthly issue of the **FOGHORN** is not a bad bargain for your $24 annual dues. The fact that we have an increasing number of Bulletin Board Systems and a Staff available to answer questions, provide products for your convenience (and all the other things the staff members do) should be frosting on the cake. Still, some feel that their $24 give them the right to have an immediate answer or response, or the right to verbal abuse of the Staff if the desired immediate results is not forthcoming. Granted this type of harassment comes from a small segment of the organization, but the amount seems to be growing. They seem to forget or ignore the fact that similar technical answers would cost a pretty penny from professional organizations that make a living by providing computer consulting!

Maybe I should take you behind the scene to know some of what goes on at FOG headquarters, particularly around the time of the West Coast Computer Faire. We closed the FOG office for the week of the Faire in order to man the booth and run the election. I took two days of vacation time in order to be there for the entire four days. It is a lot of fun and very exciting in many ways. It is certainly a joy to meet so many of you personally, particularly the members from out of town. None-the-less it is a grueling four long days on our feet all day long.

The fatigue does take its toll. We never seem to be able to get through a Faire without picking up some kind of Flu or Cold bug. The time of the year is right for it and with the physical fatigue our bodies are ripe for anything that comes along. This year has been no different. The Staff have been swapping around some Flu and although I thought I had lucked out this year, something finally caught up with me as well.

In the face of all this the Staff returned to the office from the Faire, one week behind on everything. It took almost two full days just to open the mail that had piled up. Also we needed to rush to get out the May **FOGHORN** with all the latest news from the Faire. Those of you who have been kind enough to volunteer to help at the office can appreciate what all is done there. Maybe what we need is an initiation requirement that every member volunteer at least on day of work at the FOG office. I know everyone who has done so has come away with a new appreciation of what it takes to provide the kind of service that you have come to expect from us.

We are still trying to add to the staff with a few of the right kind of help. However, finding persons capable of answering your technical questions (or at least capable of being trained to do so) and doing the variety of tasks necessary around the office at a rate of pay compatible with our budget is not an easy chore.

While we are developing our skills and trying to catch up with the tremendous influx of new members in the past few months, I hope you all will show some patience and kind appreciation for the hard work that is being done on your behalf!

Meanwhile, another indication of a negative trend is the fact that the Digital Deli has had to close access to the FOG and Pico-Net public domain libraries for the time being. Copying of disks in the main showroom had become disruptive of business, so they moved the libraries into the Seminar Room where User Group activities could continue in private when seminars were not in session. However, that room has also been used for inventory sale items and for other store purposes.

Access by Users Groups has now been denied because four computers boards and some valuable Master software diskettes have

disappeared. The software was not useable by anyone except for owners of one particular brand of Hard Disk. The only value to anyone was that of the blank diskettes. But because of the theft it took three and one-half days of hard work to recreate the software on those diskettes!

There is no certainty that any User Group members were involved with the loss. However, the activity of a variety of persons coming and going in that room while salespersons were busy with customers made it possible for the loss to occur.

Why do I go to such lengths to explain what has happened at one store? Because there is certain moral obligations implicit in being given that use of another person's facility. If you or your local organization have such a convenience offered to you, you can help by keeping an eye open as to what is happening at that facility! I recall once long ago when a Pico-Net member caught a person in the act of copying software from the library, then carefully ERASING the files he had copied so that they would not be available for anyone else! I don't know what possesses such persons, but we all need to be on the lookout for them because a few rotten apples will definitely sour a good deal for all of the rest of us.

Still on the subject of attitudes, I was at a local FOG meeting recently where there was so much disruption that I could only hear the speaker part of the time. I no longer run a local group meeting, but it seems to me very illogical to invite a guest speaker and then show him the disrespect of making it difficult for him to be heard! It seems that the audience would be better able to appreciate the speaker if the diskette library were not set out for copying until after the speaker is finished. This is particularly true if the group meets more than once a month with the other meeting set aside for a Workshop session.

It seems that as more and more companies produce more and more different kinds of computers, and as an ever increasing number of computer retail stores spring up some of the fun of the old days is being lost. The enthusiasm for mastering the machine and the software with the help of friends and fellow computer users is being replaced by a mad rush to get the latest and greatest at minimum cost with software acquired any way you can. In this kind of an environment, help that can be obtained by any means from any available source is often appreciated about as much as public domain software. Since it is provided without great expense it is considered by some persons to be worth nothing. If that is true, why then is it so desired?

Let me hasten to add that I realize these complaints do not apply to most of you. FOG members are a group that I am always proud to be associated with. Their attitude is generally very good, with an earnest desire to be friendly and help each other. What I have tried to say here is that we all need to be sensitive to what is happening around us. We need to counteract bad attitudes with good ones, and to try to correct bad attitudes or behavior when it affects our FOG reputation, or enjoyment of our computer!

* * * * * * *

More Notes from the Office

by Gale Rhoades

FOGgers on the move

The has been a dramatic increase in the number of ***FOGHORN*** s returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. Usually, when we are finally able to track down the member, we discover that someone forgot to tell us that they were moving.

PLEASE! Help us get the ***FOGHORN*** to you. As soon as you know the new address, let us know. We try to get the ***FOGHORN*** into the mail by the 25th of the month. This means that we run the labels on the Saturday preceeding. We always make a last ditch effort to catch all address changes, renewals, and new memberships so that everyone can get their ***FOGHORN***. Notifying us before your move will make this much easier.

FOG RCP/Ms

For the unbelievers, there really are three FOG systems so far. We have over 600 users logged into System #1 and nearly as many on #3. Many days, we have 60 or more callers! The systems are definately very popular so try to be fair in your use of the systems.

System #2 (in Vancouver, BC) has been down for several weeks due to a hardware problem. It should be back on line by the time you read this, if only on a DriveC:. It will be back in full operation just as soon as possible.

For those members who are using the COMM-PAC modem and are trying to call the systems, you have probably discovered the hardware glitch of that modem. The COMM-PAC frequently misreads a busy signal as a carrier until given a chance to re-examine the signal. When it discovers its error, it returns you to the menu. There is no repair for this problem.

One thing that frequently happens when members call the system is that they neglect to press the <cr> (<return> key). There is a delay built into the system to give the phone lines a chance to eliminate some of the line noise. Therefore, when a **CONNECTION ESTABLISHED** message appears, you must press the return key 3 or 4 times until the **HOW MANY NULLS, (0-9)?** question appears.

This is when you should turn on your buffer to catch the messages that appear on the screen. It is important that you read these messages at least once. Instructions and guidelines for using the systems are contained in these messages. This is also the reason the messages are rather long. For those who call on a regular basis, and who want to know how to avoid these messages, the secret is **^k**.

Eventually the system will ask for your name or USER ID. If you have not called the system since March 15th, you are a new user. In this case, enter your full name. You will then be asked if you are a new user. Answer **y**es. Enter your city and state when asked.

Finally, you will be asked to enter a password. This may be <u>any</u> eight characters you can **remember** as long as the first character is not a number. You may use your membership number if you preceed it with a letter. The system will then give you a USER ID. This is the combination of your user number (which is assigned by the system) and your password. If you remember, and use, this USER ID, you will find your access to the message system is greatly speeded up.

There remains a very important step for those who want to be able to download or upload files. Those whom the system regards as first time callers cannot get to the RCP/M. This can <u>only</u> be changed if the system operator (sysop) knows who you are. You can accomplish this by leaving a message as part of the "goodbye" routine.

At the COMMAND: line, enter **g**<**cr**>. The system will ask if you wish to leave a comment. Answer **y**es. You should now enter your name, address, phone numbers, and your membership number. If you are the officer of an A.M.O., please indicate what office you hold as well.

Now, providing you wait a couple of days, the next time you call in, you will be able to **j**ump to **c**p/m with either a "j" or a "c". The difference between these two commands is that **j**ump to CP/M take you directly to the RCP/M while the **c**p/m command will allow you to leave a message for the SYSOP.

You may use the systems to pass along an address change, send in a submission for either the library or the ***FOGHORN***. If you need assistance with a printer installation or using a software package or writing a program, leave a message on the message system. If you see a request for assistance that you can answer, take a few minutes to help.

I have managed to collect documentation on most of the modem software packages members are using. As soon as I can find an extra few minutes, I will start a series of tutorials for beginners. If any of the readers want to lend a hand to this project, please do! It will be mid-June before I can even start the project. If you would let me know what package you are working on, we can avoid duplication of effort. Also, it would make it easier to typeset the articles if all examples were from either System #1 or #3. You can upload the files to any of the systems.

cont. on page 7

Please send you order and
CASHIERS CHECK or MONEY ORDER
PAYABLE TO:
OSBORNE COMPUTER CORPORATION
TO: FOG
P.O. BOX 3474
DAILY CITY, CA 94015
Attn: Gale Rhoades
Phone:_____

Purchaser Information

Name_____
FOG #_____
Street_____
_____
City, State, Zip

Method of Shipment_____

Description	Part Number	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Osborne 1 Start Pac	2G08000-00	$ 25		
Osborne 1 Tech Man	2F00153-00	$ 45		
OCC 1 Comm Pac	2B50000-00	$ 100		
OCC 1 Power Pac	2B60000-00	$ 125		
OCC 1 D/D Bundled S/W	2D10306-01	$ 55		
OCC 1 SD Blue Manual	3F00001-00	$ 10		
OCC 1 DD Grey Manual	2F00161-01	$ 18		
OCC 1 Fan Kit*	6K00021-01	$ 55		
Executive w/1-year**	2K00000-01	$1595		
Executive w/90-day***	2K00000-90	$1445		
Exec Diagnostic Disk	3D01002-01	$ 55		
Exec BIOS Enhancment	3D10500-01	$ 25		
Exec 1.21 ROM Upgr.*	6K00040-02	$ 45		
Exec Comm Pac Modem	2B50001-01	$ 175		
Exec Modem Update Kit	2B50001-02	$ 75		
Exec Technical Manual	2F00213-01	$ 125		
BASCOM	2G00901	$ 225		
BSTAM	2G00201	$ 95		
DATASTAR	2G01001	$ 225		
DEADLINE	2G00530	$ 40		
DISKDOCTOR	2G00401	$ 65		
DOCUMATE PLUS	2G00301	$ 115		
FOOTNOTE	2G03901	$ 55		
FORTH	2G00801	$ 125		
FORTRAN-80	2G05000	$ 195		
GRAMMATIK	2G04401	$ 95		
MATH STAR	2G04801	$ 35		
MILESTONE	2G01501	$ 195		
MONEY MAESTRO	2G01801	$ 125		
MUMATH	2G01301	$ 145		
PERSONAL DATEBOOK	2G01401	$ 95		
PERSONAL PEARL	2G01601	$ 195		
REAL ESTATE CALCAID	2G04901	$ 65		
SPELLGUARD	2G00601	$ 195		
STAR CROSS	2G02001	$ 40		
SUPERSORT	2G01101	$ 155		
SYSTEM CHECKER	2G04001	$ 35		
WORD PAC	2G00702	$ 225		
ZORK 1	2G06100	$ 40		

TOTAL PRICE for goods ordered _____
California Residents Add 6.5% Sales Tax _____
Plus Handling $10.00
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE SENT WITH ORDER _____

* Caution: requires disassembly of the system to install.
** Includes 1-year service contract from Xerox Americare.
***Includes 90-day service contract from Xerox Americare.

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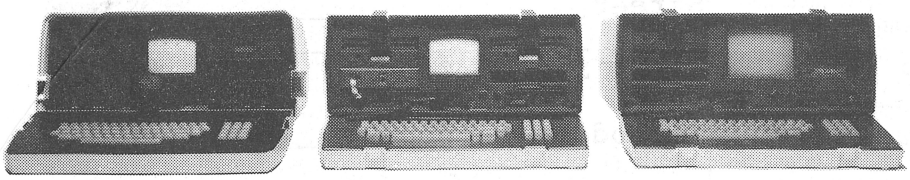

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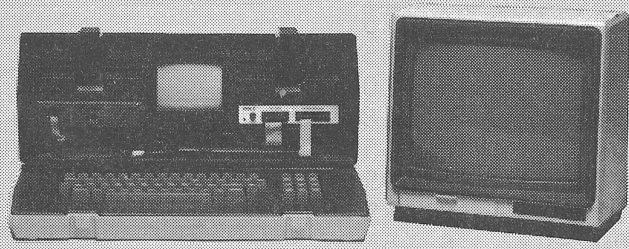

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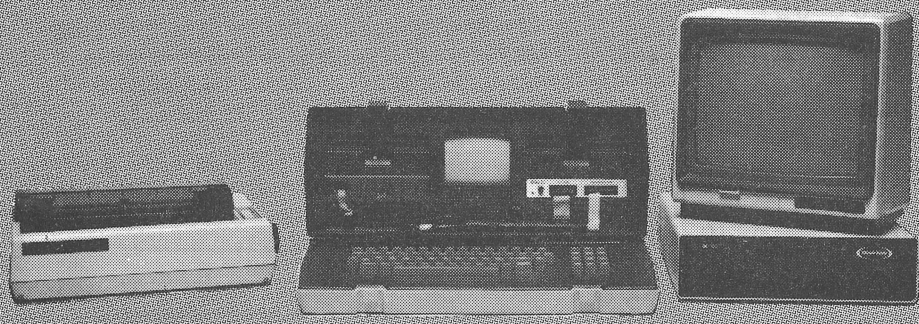

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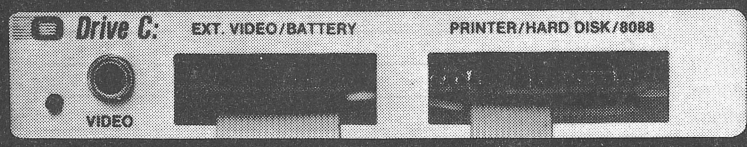

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cont. from page 4

Incidently, I am getting a great number of requests for tutorials on just about every possible subject — including, but not limited to:

How to use FINDBAD.COM
How to use SETAUTO.COM
Getting a single density disk converted to double density
How to use UNERA.COM
Sending and receiving TELEXs
Using the LU (Library Utility) programs — the most important being, how to read files therein and then how to get the files out of a .LBR file
How to ASseMble a .ASM file
How to use the disk library

Most of these members want simple, step-by-step tutorials with lots of examples. They also want the subject broken into short articles.

SmartKey² and the Executive

It appears that there is a serious problem using SmartKey² with the Executive. If you have this program and are able to use it with your Executive, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have purchased it for your Executive and have not been able to get it to work, return the entire package to the FOG office and we will send you a full refund.

* * * * * * *

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FOG RCP/M #2 (300 & 1200 baud)	(604) 596-0314
FOG RCP/M #3 (1200 baud only)	(415) 992-8542
FOGHORN Editor, voice line	(408) 249-5223

ATTENTION!

The number for System #2 was incorrectly listed in the April ***FOGHORN***. Please make note of the correct number as listed above.

FROM THE EDITOR

I made a mistake! A few months ago, in an honest attempt at being helpful, I placed a footnote comment about how to set an Okidata 92/93 to compressed print (17 cpi) from within SuperCalc (***FOGHORN***, March '84, pg 8). I said one could simply send ^] from the Setup, Setup part of the Output command. I went further to say that I do it all the time. Of course as anyone with an Osborne and an Okidata 92/93 knows by now, ^] cannot be sent from the Osborne keyboard. Likewise, one cannot send ^^ ; the key required to toggle back to 10 cpi (the default pitch). Yes, all those with this combination of hardware know of these problems... except me! So I got letters... and now I know too. My mistake came from the fact that I never used my Osborne, with SuperCalc, and the Okidata. I have been running SuperCalc on a different computer. I apologize for any anxieties I may have caused.

I have provided myself with a method for sending the Okidata to 17 cpi. Using a different computer, I wrote a SuperCalc, /Xecute program (OKI17CPI.XQT) which looks like this:

/ODA1,S (Output the Display of cell A1, (S)etup device)
A ("A" toggles auto page advance ON)
S^] (Manual (S)etup codes for printer, ^]=ASCII char. GS)
P (Print)

I wrote it using WordStar (Non-document mode) and placed the ^] using ^P (i.e. ^P^]). Remember, my other computer (a Phoenix-80*) will send ^]. I then connected the Phoenix-80 to my Osborne via the RS232 ports and, using modem programs, sent OKI17CPI.XQT to the Osborne. Now I can, by printing the contents of cell A1 and wasting a sheet of paper, set the Okidata to 17 cpi. As long as I don't touch the S^] line of the program, I'm alright.

Incidently, while ^^ (RS) can't be sent from the Osborne keyboard (or that of the Phoenix-80, either), sending ^X (CAN) will CLEAR the Okidata back to the default setting of 10 cpi.

I will make the above /Xecute program available on the FOG RBBS systems (if that will work).

It will probably be more convenient for most to find another computer to generate the program locally. OR, as some have done, SuperCalc can be patched for 17 cpi use exclusively. I have no details for this since I have not tried it, but one would want to keep more than one version of SuperCalc around to enable printing with different pitches (I've been told).

There is probably a more elegant way to solve this type of problem. If you know of one, please tell the rest of FOG. Write it up and send it in.

[* My "other computer" is a Phoenix-80 (or model 1481), made for in-house use by Beckman Instruments, Inc. Most of you have never and will never see one, and you aren't missing anything.]

David M. Oates
Editor

* * * * * * *

The **F**irst **O**sborne **G**roup (**FOG**) *does not endorse any of the products advertised in this publication. FOG does not verify the accuracy of the claims in any of the ads. You should thoroughly investigate any offers before buying.*

Please let FOG know of any difficulties encountered. Send all details, in writing, to the FOG office at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474, U. S. A. We can't promise a solution, but we will try to help.

All articles contained in these pages are the views on the authors. Publication does not necessarily indicate endorsement by FOG, the ***FOGHORN****, or any of the officers.*

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

When I saw the Osmosis ad on page 30 of the October 1983 issue of **PORTABLE COMPANION**, the OSMOS 5 (an internal 80 col. board) sounded just like what I needed: "NO alteration required to existing software," "no soldering," and "No specialized knowledge is required." I ordered one immediately, sending a check for $254.00. You can imagine my unpleasant surprise when it finally arrived three months later and I noticed in the documentation a seven-step patch required to use dBase II with this 80 col. upgrade, and a notice that a patch would be "made available in a few weeks" to run Supercalc on the Osborne double density. My surprise became even more unpleasant when I read, at installation step no. A13, "WARNING Experience is required to solder directly to an IC leg. Do not attempt this connection if you do not have the necessary experience." I was not much consoled by the assurance that "the 80 column board will work whether it is soldered or not. This connection ensures the correct operation of 1/2 intensity when using the 52 column display."

None of this should have surprised me, for I had by now already had three months of experience in dealing with Osmosis, plenty of time in which to learn that their deeds and performance lag far behind their claims and promises. When I phoned on Nov. 8 to inquire about the status of my order, had they not told me they would ship ca. Nov.22? When I phoned again on Dec. 15, had they not promised shipment by Dec. 21? And had they not told me, when I phoned again on Jan 4, 1984, that it had been taken to the post office the day before? It finally arrived by UPS on Jan. 6, and I installed it two days later.

As an Osborne owner, I have become accustomed to carelessly written, poorly printed, inadequate documentation, but the Osmosis Installation Manual and Applications Guide demonstrates a new low. First of all, it is not a manual at all, but an unstapled collection of largely unnumbered typewritten pages interspersed with poor-quality photocopies of scarcely legible diagrams. The lines pointing to the stand-off locations on Fig. 2-1, for example, are so broken up that nobody could possible identify a single location. The hand printing on the diagrams is scarcely legible, and the longhand scribbling on them is even worse. To top it all off, they give a disconnected telephone number for "hot-line telephone service."

The manual comes with separate instructions for the tan Osborne and the blue Osborne, but the two sets of instructions share many installation steps and most diagrams — a confusing arrangement. I recommend that one first separate the inapplicable instructions — as much as that is possible — and set them aside.

Both models share Fig. 2.2. Actually there are two different Figs. 2.2, one of which bears no number at all, but is labeled "Fitting Detail (Preliminary)." This figure shows how to fit the 80 col. board onto the main board and is referred to as Fig. 2.2 in installation steps A7 and A10. It also shows, in a sketch in the upper right quadrant, how to locate leg 9 of the SN74LS00 integrated circuit (for an optional soldered connection), but this sketch is not referenced anywhere in the instructions. The other Fig. 2.2 shows a bottom view of the Osborne case with a critical screw location referred to in the instructions: "Care should be taken when re-inserting this screw, since the disk data cable may have slipped into the screw's path." One will never find this critical screw if one is looking at the wrong Fig. 2.2.

The installation manual, in one of the early, unnumbered pages, lists only two tools required for installation into the blue Osborne: a Phillips screwdriver with min. 4" shaft (to remove the cover) and a flat-head screwdriver (to pry integrated circuits from their sockets). You will also need, however, the following tools:

1. small wrench or pliers (to remove nuts from mounting studs)
2. drill and bits from 1/8" to 1/2" in 1/8" increments (to drill hole through front cover for exterior monitor plug)
3. low wattage soldering iron and heat sink (if you want to make the optional soldered connection)

The 80 col. board is attached to the main board by using two existing Osborne mounting studs and nuts and two right-angle plastic board supports supplied by Osmosis. One of these supports does clip over the edges of the main board and the 80 col. board. The other clips over the 80 col. board but is supposed to be glued to the main board "with a suitable adhesive." Since this latter support did not quite reach the main board, it was not possible to glue it; so I used a small piece of double-face tape to fill the 1/16" gap. The biggest mechanical problem I had with the whole installation was trying to get these stubborn little support clips attached. I finally had to trim off a bit of their plastic with a knife to get them started onto the edges of the boards.

The actual disassembly of the Osborne and installation of the OSMOS 5 board presents no real difficulties once your get past the poor documentation. The most difficult part was trying to line up the 40 header pins on the OSMOS 5 board to fit into the 40 holes in the Osborne socket previously occupied by the Z80 chip, since these 40 pins are roughly in the middle of the OSMOS board, where they cannot easily be seen all at one time. For this sensitive alignment, I had to enlist the sharp eyesight of my teenage daughter aided by a good bright flashlight.

Mainly because I was unable to identify leg no. 9 on the SN74LS00 IC (discovering the unreferenced sketch on alternate Fig. 2.2 only after the job was completed), I did not attempt the solder connection of the OSMOS 5 pink wire to this integrated circuit, but cut off the pink wire instead, thereby losing half-intensity when using the 52 col. display. Since installing the OSMOS 5, I have asked an electronics technician for advice on soldering to the leg of an integrated circuit, and he recommended soldering to the socket pin where it sticks through the circuit board, rather than trying to solder the wire directly to the IC leg. So the next time I dismantle my Osborne for some other reason, I shall probably attempt this soldered connection. [*See the following "footnote" letter. David*]

After step A17, which completes the actual installation of the OSMOS 5 board, I was instructed to "Return to the relevant section for reassembly." It would have helped tremendously if they had specified, "i.e. p. 2, step 12," since I had by now spent several hours working through sixteen board installation steps and did not remember that I had been detoured to this installation section by step 11, page 2. Thinking that this instruction meant simply to reverse the disassembly instructions, I consequently reassembled the entire computer without being aware of steps 12 through 15 on page 2. I thereby overlooked the caution against re-inserting one the case bottom screws through the disk data cable. When I later discovered this caution, I again removed the Osborne case bottom to make sure no damage had been done. Fortunately the cable in question was securely strapped safely out of the screw's path. So the confusing manual instructions cost me one additional removal and re-installation of the Osborne cover.

The complete installation of the OSMOS 5 board took me one whole 8-hour day, including all the normal interruptions of family life. I suspect that on a second try, I could do the entire job in 4 hours.

How does it work now that it is installed? Well, I was unable to try the software that I know best, Supercalc, because for the Osborne double density machine OSMOS 5 requires a patch, which they have not yet sent me (as of Feb. 20). The OSMOS 5 manual's addendum announcing that this patch would "be made available in a few weeks" was dated December 19, 1983. When I phoned Osmosis January 17, I was told that the patch had been finished and was on

its way to California from England. When I phoned Feb. 7, 1984, and requested the patch, a woman told me that she would forward my request to Mr. Kitching. If their delivery of the patch is as prompt as their delivery of the board, I should be able to let you know by June 1984 how Supercalc works with the OSMOS 5.

Since I do not have dBase II, I cannot tell you how well this software works with the Osmosis patch. I have tried it with Wordstar and have found no problems so far. When running the CP/M system and utilities; however, I have discovered that I can no longer PIP successfully either from drive A to B or vice-versa, neither with the wildcard format nor file by file unless I first SYSGEN the destination diskette in addition to formatting it.

Also, in the original 52 col. mode the actual display is 128 characters wide, and one can scroll horizontally to see what's out beyond the edges. With the OSMOS 5, the actual display shrinks to the 80 columns on the screen--period! A call to Osmosis on Jan. 17, 1984, confirmed that this is normal. Thus, one cannot scroll horizontally beyond the actual monitor display. (Does the Osborne 80 col. upgrade have this same limitation?)

[*Yes, and it doesn't scroll; it jumps! David*]

The OSMOS 5 has its own external video connection, which requires drilling a 1/2" hole through the front cover of the Osborne. The manual suggests that this hole be made with a small bit and then enlarged gradually with successively larger bits to 1/2". This new video connection port requires no Exmon adapter. If you want the 5" screen to display in addition to the external monitor, you must replace the Osborne dummy plug into the EXT. VIDEO opening.

An addendum to the manual suggests that some external video monitors may not be able to synchronize with the signal from the Osmosis 80 col. board. This can be remedied, they say, by entering an Escape C Control C: (return). I had no such synchronization problem with my 9" USI EV-9031 external monitor.

The OSMOS 5 Applications Guide provides a full page of Escape Sequences, which can be used to set characters to inverse, adjust characters' intensity, underline, delete, etc., many of which duplicate Wordstar functions. Escape 5 switches back to 52 character display, while Escape 8 returns to 80 column display on the 5" screen. The external monitor always displays 80 columns, even though only 52 of them are used when operating in 52 column mode.

The loss of half-intensity characters when operating in 52 column mode (due to failure to make an optional soldered connection to an IC) is particularly annoying when trying to use Wordstar without an external monitor. All on-screen helps are lost to view, since they are in half-intensity.

Since I have not had an opportunity to try Basic, CBasic, or Personal Pearl since installing OSMOS 5, I should like to hear from other users about any effects OSMOS 5 might have on these programs.

Thomas L. Glaser
5422 Page Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236

This letter constitutes a footnote to my letter of February 20, 1984 [*immediately above*], in which I reviewed the OSMOS 5 80 column board from Osmosis. Today, March 4, as I was right in the middle of a Wordstar project, my screen suddenly went completely blank, and my Osborne refused to show even the sign-on message. I checked the fuse in the rear of my Osborne and found it to be good; so I decided to remove the OSMOS 5, which I had installed on January 8, 1984. I figured this would at least tell me whether the problem was in the OSMOS 5 or in my old faithful Osborne. Sure enough, when I removed the OSMOS 5 (which had been used for less than 20 hours), my Osborne started right up again.

Incidentally, it took me only one and a half hours to remove the OSMOS 5, versus about eight hours to install it.

After I had my Osborne working again in 52 column mode, I decided to look up the warranty on the OSMOS 5. After scanning the advertisement in the October 1983 issue of ***PORTABLE COMPANION*** and the Osmosis Installation Manual and Applications Guide, I came to the stark realization that the damn thing doesn't have any warranty or guarantee at all!

I am phoning Osmosis tomorrow for a return authorization for repair, replacement or refund. I shall keep FOG members informed as to the kind of response I get from them.

By the way, as of today [*March 4, 1984*], I have still not received the promised patch to run Supercalc on my double-density Osborne.

Thomas L. Glaser
Pittsburgh, Pa.

See the special notice from the Board in the ***FROM THE FOG*** *section.*
— Editor

* * * * * * *

80 Column that works!

I have just installed the 80 column upgrade and double density upgrade from Nuevo Electronics corporation, P.O. Box 209, Richmond, Texas 77469.

It is fabulous!

From the day I bought my Osborne (I was one of those daring first, with the tan model), I was always unhappy about the 52 column display, especially when using WordStar. There were also several programs that would not fit on my single density machine.

The Nuevo upgrades are simple to install. I'm no electronic or computer wiz and it took me less than an hour to do it all. And, best of all, it's about half the cost of the originally offered factory upgrade.

The documentation for installation of the upgrades is very easy to follow. Once you've done your installation, you need to sysgen your program disks, and that's all there is to it. Unlike some of the other upgrades offered by vendors, there are no startup procedures required every time you turn on your computer. You use it exactly as before! (Your cursor will blink now, so you won't have trouble spotting it).

One word of caution: If you've put the original WSPATCH on your WordStar disk, it won't work with the upgrade, so make a new copy of your WordStar. (Now, can anyone tell me how I can get my WordStar to log on to B drive without using WSPATCH?)

I did call Nuevo with some questions originally, and spoke to Al Jan, who was extremely helpful. They're definitely a good outfit to do business with!

Harris Goldman
Darien, CT.06820

* * * * * * *

OSBOARD

Since the article titled "Mylogo" was written [**see *FOGHORN*, Vol.III No.3 '83**], the marketing, sales, and support of the **Osboard** program has gone from OCC back to its author Dave Grenowski. This is good luck for those of you who would now like to buy "Osboard" as the price is no longer $50.00 but a real steal at $29.00.

For those of you who would like to implement faster disk step rates on your disk drives, add the following lines of code just below the ORG statement in the AUTOST.ASM source code:

```
lxi  h,0EF13h    address to place value for disk step rate
mvi  a,01        value for 12 ms. seek (use 00 for MPI drives)
mov  m,a         move value into place
```

Also, I have sent the source for AUTOST.ASM (step 8 in the article) to ***FOGHORN*** so they can put it in the library. This will save those of you lucky enough to get on the FOG RCP/M (I've been trying a month now) some typing. If you're really desperate call me (305) 653-2871 and I'll transfer you a copy via modem. This offer is contingent upon:

A) my being home
B) you calling at a reasonable hour (I live in Miami, ie. Eastern Time)
C) my predicament at the time you call (am I busy with something else?)

Al De La Torres
Miami, FL

* * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN,*

The following information would be helpful to many members:

Lets have some feedback on "flippies". So far all the negative comments I have heard are from the disk salesmen. Let's hear about successes and failures from users. [*You've probably seen some by the time you read this, but if not, let's have it! — David*]

I am looking for a compact accounting system for small business which would use one DD disk for the program and one for data. Surely there is a system which allows us to do all our bookkeeping by entering each piece of data once only, will generate a balance, monthly P&L, write our checks and balance the check book, etc. We issue about ten invoices and pay about 50 bills a month. I have a strong preference for MBasic source code, since I can modify it for Canadian requirements and compile it with BASCOM. I would appreciate a call from a few users of such systems.

The footswitch for the control key described in the January FOGHORN, Page 15, is interesting, but expensive and heavy. It is clearly possible to connect two appropriate wires from inside the keyboard to a 1/8" jack and use any type of foot or knee switch. The hardware should cost about $5. Does anybody know which wires?

The patch table for WordStar versions 2.26 and 3.0 published in the Portable Companion is very useful. We set default line height to LH9, and normal pitch to 12 cpi, as for this letter, and several others. Has anybody got the patches for the EXEC WordStar, version 3.3?

Congratulations and good luck in developing FOG to replace OCC "support". While the comparison is not direct, I feel that FOG has been more help to me than OCC.

Neil McCubbin
(514) 243-6465
Quebec, Canada

* * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN,*

I am by no means a computer wizard. Only after hours and hours of trial and error have I been able to conquer WordStar, SuperCalc, and Personal Pearl. My greatest frustation was trying to use the full capacity of my C. Itoh printer with WordStar. I was very leery of any new programs but when I heard of "PRINTERIZER" produced by C.I. Software, I decided to order it.

I can honestly say that even with my limited experience, I was able to get "PRINTERIZER" up and running almost immediately. It works amazingly well and is everthing I wanted it to be. This computer novice recommends "PRINTERIZER" as an easy to understand and valuable addition to WordStar.

Konrad von Emster
Pacifica, CA

* * * * * * *

Dear FOG:

I was very happy to get the letter from the President concerning OCC's offer to sell some items through FOG and/or AMO's. I have a couple of suggestions that might make OCC a little money simply by allowing some other company with whom they have probably already dealt, to use the Osborne name and logo on notebooks for us to keep our users manuals, in loose leaf format, together with associated notes, and documentation. To be most convenient, I suggest a cover like the one used for DBASE II about a year ago, which takes exactly a half page of standard typewriter paper, and a larger one which would take a full size sheet of typewriter paper (8.5 x 11"). The latter would not only take this paper, but would be large enough for the most recent edition of the O-1 users' manual or the SuperCalc 2 manual.

One item that I did not find on the list of items that were available was this new O-1 user's manual. Was that an oversight or are they actually all gone. My blue one is getting really worn out!

John T. Coughlin, II
Westlake, OH

* * * * * * *

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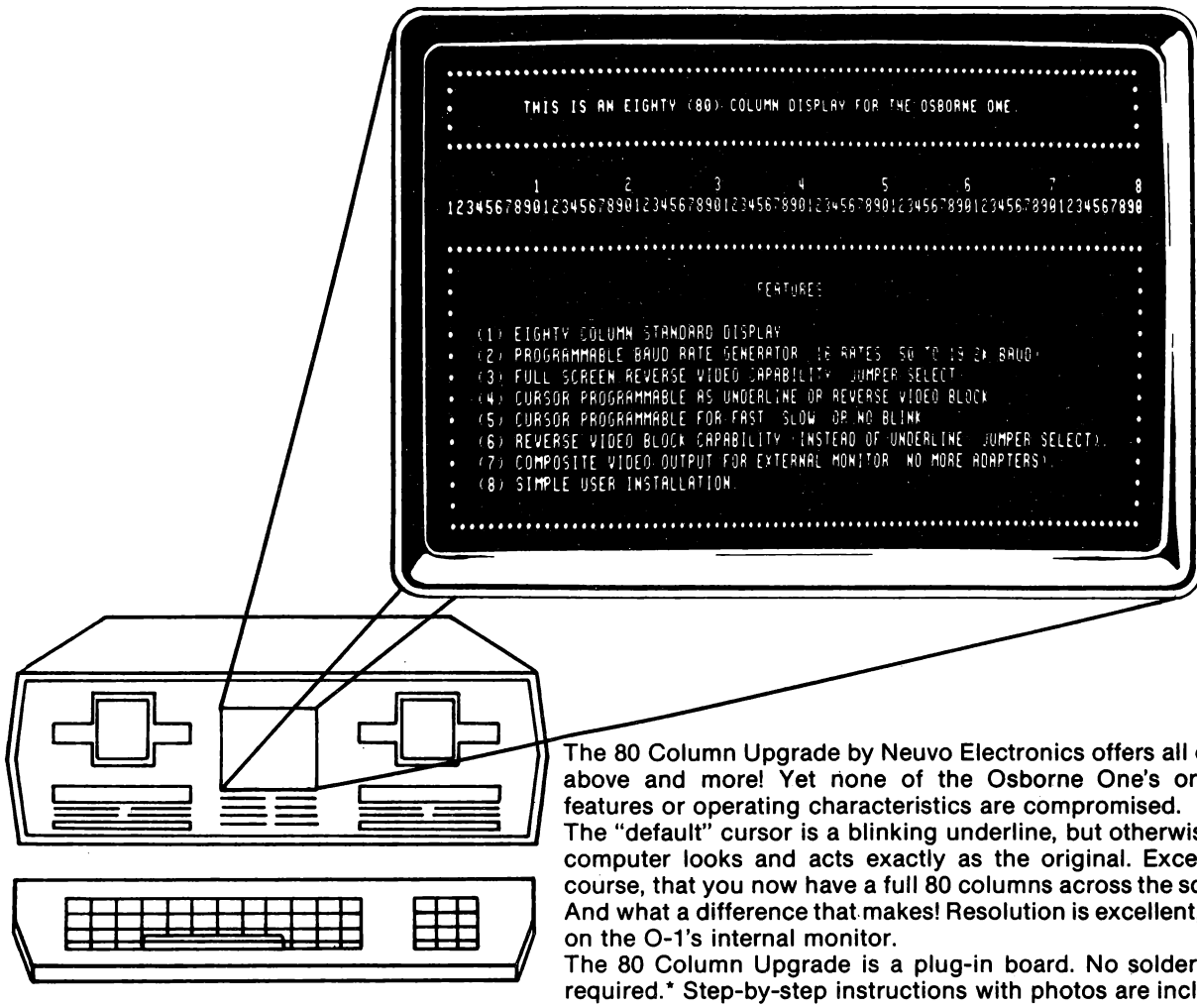

The 80 Column Upgrade by Neuvo Electronics offers all of the above and more! Yet none of the Osborne One's original features or operating characteristics are compromised.
The "default" cursor is a blinking underline, but otherwise the computer looks and acts exactly as the original. Except, of course, that you now have a full 80 columns across the screen. And what a difference that makes! Resolution is excellent, even on the O-1's internal monitor.
The 80 Column Upgrade is a plug-in board. No soldering is required.* Step-by-step instructions with photos are included.

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CONSUMER ALERT

Blue Chip is Cow Chip!

As indicated by enclosed correspondence, caution should be exercised when considering software products from Blue Chip Software.

Despite the fact that Blue Chip advertised Osborne compatibility in Nov., 1983 issue of Byte Magazine, page 69, they have unequivocally denied any such support, have refused to accept the warranty card, and despite being notified of specific errors in accord with the support manual have denied any remedy and refused to accept responsibility for the product.

Management indicates that it never had any plans to support the Osborne, but when reviewing the terminal menu for installing the program, WHOOPS!, guess what one of the choices was????? You got it! Ol' Ozzie.

When shopping for commodities, especially blue chippers, better watch where you step.

PRAISE for PASSWORD

By the way, I have had a US Robotics Password, (RS 232 Port) installed for about a month. It works just fine. The only set up required is to move two jumper pins reversing pins 2 and 3 and setting dip switich #3 to high. Works very nicely with modem 712! If any new owners have difficulty with the product or are concerned about the quality of the company, my dealings with them have been most satisfactory — courteous, prompt reply and staying with me until the problem was solved.

Thanks for FOG, for the disk directory utility, the Save WordStar routine and Get It. Great programs. Have recently been trying to use the Stockbase programs and have had difficulty in setting up the history files. If anybody has encountered similar problems and solved them, would you please let me know?

Also, enclosed are dues renewal. Save the postage, and spend the money on publishing an Index to Vol. 1 (loose Sheet). You see, unless one has the index, it's difficult to know whether there is an article of interest. Maybe a concurrent index would be useful. Send me the index and local group will compile.

Jeffrey L. Harkins
Palouse, WA.

* * * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN,*

Query — Osborne Hardware Peculiarity

In the period just after receiving my Osborne-1 (SD, brown case, Serial A-13xxx, March, 1982), I experienced many BDOS errors on the right hand drive where I was storing my work. All program files were on the disks in the left hand drive. These errors were most likely to occur at the time of the first SAVE. Dealer service could not identify a problem with drive speed/alignment. True, I had left the system tracks off some of the storage disks, but they were all on the program disks booted on the left-hand drive. And the BDOS problem persists to this day although I now have CP/M tracks on all disks.

In time I discovered that this form of BDOS error could be avoided if I started to boot a disk in the right hand drive after turning on the machine. I say "started" because I did not even have to let it complete the boot, but could stop it with RESET after the red light came on. Then, on the left-hand drive I could boot my program disk on the normal fashion and everything was fine. I have trained myself always to say "hello" to the right hand drive before doing a real boot on the left-hand one.

I suspect an error in the ROM. Has anyone had a similiar experience? Can anyone offer a definitive diagnosis?

Michael Rulison
Raleigh, N.C.

* * * * * * * *

Dear FOGHORN,

I don't know if anybody else has this problem — BUT:

In using my parallel (IEEE) port connected to an Epson dot matrix printer, I was troubled by "garbage" characters being printed about one third of the time on cold boot. Sometimes it would spontaneously clear up until, by process of elimination, I found that the printer cable was resting on the keyboard cable thus inducting stray current. Lesson learned — be careful and keep all those pesky cables coming out of the front isolated from each other.

AMTRAK AND OSBORNE — HEAD ON COLLISION?

I recently experimented to see how the Oz fared with strange current on trains. Believe it or not, there are electrical outlets (for the train cleaners and their vacuum machines) every 4th or 5th seat that connect to the onboard 110 volt supply and my Osborne performed flawlessly although the screen had a tendency to "float" due, no doubt to the unstable 60 cycle. I used plenty of backup disks and I would strongly recommend a surge protector but it can be done.

While on the train, I drew plenty of attention from my fellow passengers but nothing surpassed the crowd I drew on Market Street in San Francisco when the Oz was accidentally dragged under the front of a car and came up operating flawlessly. I am still convinced the early Osborne prototype that looked like a military model influenced the one we know today and I for one am thankful we have a sturdier machine than most of the flimsys on the market.

OVERSCAN AGAIN

Benjamin Cohen's article on overscan in the January issue didn't address the problem that most monitors have — the Osborne internal monitor has a guard band but the external monitor does not, thus crowding the top and the bottom almost off the screen. Does anyone know of a software patch (beyond the monitor adjustments which just aren't enough)?

OVERLAYS

Several companies market keyboard overlays that are convenient guides to the program commands of WordStar, DBASE2, MBasic, etc. I almost bought five of them until I realized I'd be out over $100 besides which I wasn't sure if their ideas of commands are the most useful, would be my idea of what's useful — so I invented my own. Most medium sized photocopy machines have reduction capability (75% & 64% is standard on 98% of the copiers). Simply type the commands you want on your overlay in the shape of the keyboard overlay only in the pattern large enough so that it will fit when reduced by the 75% setting on the coplier. Remember you can cut and paste so you won't have to accomplish this all on one sheet of paper. Once your product is reduced (this also sharpens and darkens the lettering as well as squeezing more onto the keyboard), you can take the sheet, which is now keyboard size and fit, to a company that does plastic laminating. These are the people who make security badges and there are a dozen in very major city who for $5 will laminate at least 2 overlays of your devising. From my own experience I'd advise "test driving" your overlays several times before laminating because you're almost sure to forget something.

Darrell D. Bross
San Francisco, CA

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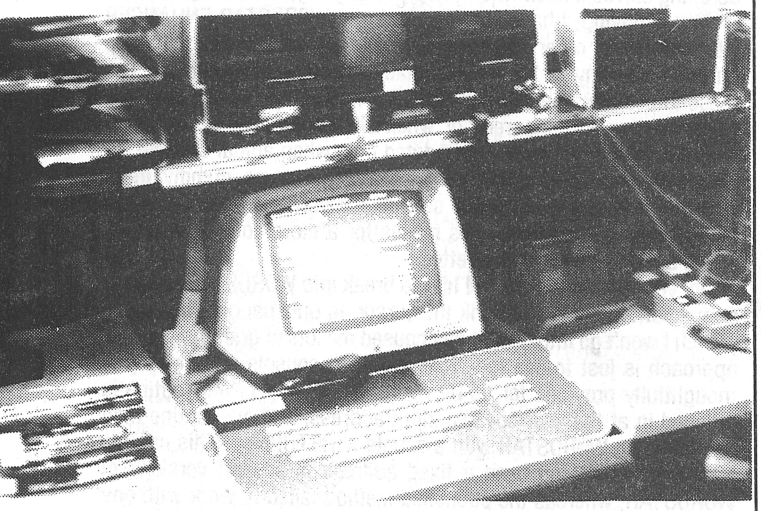
Dear FOG,

I am a novice computer user and a new member of FOG. I just got a Rixon T103J modem and as soon as I figure how to connect it to my Osborne 1, I will want to access the library with it. Does anyone know the correct pin connections between the Osborne 1 modem port and the T103J modem? I sure would appreciate the info.

Jack Costa
Round Rock, TX

* * * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN*,



80 Col. Osborne and the Osborne External Monitor

I was very upset when I was finally able to see the effects of using the 80 column option with my Osborne 1 external monitor. Many of your readers don't know about the Osborne external monitor because Osborne only sold it for short period of time. The competition was too great for Osborne to hold the price of $250.00. The store where I bought mine only sold six. At that time this was the only store in Dayton, Ohio selling Osborne equipment.

It appears that the 80 Column option was designed to be used only with monitors which have the 40 column or 40 column switch such as the Zenith ZVM 121 monitor. I thought that I could eliminate the problem by switching to a Zenith ZVM 121 monitor. I wouldn't wish the crt in that monitor on my worst enemy. The glare (reflected light from the internal surface of the screen) is so great that it could be used as a mirror. The only means around that problem is: 1. To use a shield, which aside from additional cost, causes another problem of defocusing the characters as the light passes through the screen; or 2. To increase the brightness to the extent that the light coming from the screen overwhelms the reflected light. This also gets to be annoying.

A close-up look at the screens of the two monitors will show that the Osborne monitor has a more frosted internal surface than does the Zenith. So the reflected light from the Osborne monitor comes primarily from the outer surface of the screen. The reflected light from the Zenith monitor come from both the internal surface and the external surfaces of the screen. When the back surface of a piece if glass is coated, most of the reflected light will come from that surface.

A check of the circuits used in the Zenith monitor reveals that the 40 - 80 column switch simply shorts out the horizontal width coil to add current to the deflection yoke. I did the same thing to the width coil in the Osborne monitor, but did not get near enough horizontal deflection. However, shorting out both the width coil and the linearity coil does provide the additional deflection and makes the screen readable with 80 columns. But, it has a drawback, the linearity is not good. The characters at columns 30 and 31 are very narrow and the characters on the extreme right are about two thirds the width of the characters on the extreme left of the screen. I can live with this nonlinearity much easier than the glare from the Zenith. I haven't checked as yet to see if the crts in these two units are interchangeable. Switching crts would make a good monitor of the Zenith.

Another problem with the Osborne monitor (this is a Motorola monitor) is the fact that it has no contrast control. When the 80 column program is in operation, the contrast control of the Osborne 1 is not operational. A simple fix got around the problem. Using a male and a female phono plug and jack with a divider consisting of a top resister of 100 ohms and a bottom resister of 1000 ohms I made an in-line voltage divider. I now have good contrast control by just using the brightness control on the Osborne 1.

Before I close, I would like to comment to these people who seem to believe that a monitor belongs stuck up in the air where it can cause a pain in the neck as well as the back. If these people will just observe where monitors are placed by companies who have been in the business of creating equipment with the comfort of the operator in mind, they will see that the monitor is placed in such a position that the natural fall of the eye of the operator is on the screen. The quickest way to smarten people up, as to where a monitor belongs, is for them to start wearing bifocal glasses.

I have enclosed a half tone (85 line) photograph of my work station. You can see that the Osborne 1 is on a shelf above the monitor. You will see that the metal part of the keyboard is covered (with felt) to keep my hands off the cold metal, myself not being a typist. You will also see an MD 10 (greased lightning) hard disk setting on the shelf at the right of the Osborne 1. You will also note that a block of text on the screen has been marked to show the reduced intensity.

I also modified my Executive to reduce the drastic difference between the half and full intensity for the internal and external monitors. Jim Switz informs me that he has done the same and is writing about his changes, so I wont go into what I did.

Clarence E. Shepard
Dayton, OH

* * * * * * * *

Dear David:

Congratulations on your ability and willingness to put out an informative and attractive magazine every month. I really appreciate the magazine, especially when it is impossible for me to get to the user group meetings.

Many thanks to Doug Hurst for his extremely accurate recommendation of ***Soul of CP/M*** (by Mitchell Waite and Robert Lafore) in "A Threefer" (***FOGHORN***, February 1984). I am about halfway through the book and have many times more than the meager knowledge of assembly language and CP/M system calls than I had before.

Most of us who do some programming have started out using a new language by writing a very simple program that writes our name to the screen, or writes "Hello, world", or some equally clever salutation. But most of the books available that discuss 8080 assembly language don't deal with I/O right away! I got very frustrated trying to do some programming after reading Kathe Spracklen's ***Z-80 and 8080 Assembly Language Programming*** because it did not inform me how to get data in and out of the machine. It took Hurst's article to get me to realize that what was needed was a book on CP/M's system calls in an assembly language environment. ***Soul of CP/M*** meets that description. It is not a definitive reference work on 8080 assembly language, DDT, ASM, or BDOS calls — but it is laid out very well for sequential access and incremental comprehension. That is, it is easy to read, is set up to be read from front to back, and presents information in useful packages.

Like Doug Hurst, I have been able to demonstrate the usefulness of the information contained in the book by creating a useful program already. I wanted to be able to address envelopes in my printer without having to create a file in Wordstar. I tried using PIP LST:=CON: but my typing is far too inaccurate, and that method does not allow you to make any mistakes. ENVELOP.COM is a short program that allows the user to type a line (of an address, for instance) using line editing commands (like ^H and ^X) and have that line sent out to the printer upon typing a carriage return. The program was originally written in Aztec-C and consumed 11K bytes, but the assembly language version uses only 1K! (2K for single density). (Don't get me wrong, I love Aztec-C, but sometimes the overhead of all that I/O redirection etc. is too much.)

So thanks again to Doug, and please check out my book report on ***The Elements of Programming Style*** which is (probably) elsewhere in this issue.

Chris Hill
San Mateo, CA

* * * * * * * *

Dear Gale:

Although we've not met, we have many friends & acquaintances in common, and I wanted to take this opportunity to say "hi". I don't often get time away from the hospital to write anymore, but will try to make this letter of some use to ***FOGHORN***.

First of all, I enclose a cheque for the EXEC and the OS-1 diagnostic diskettes. Glad to see them available.

Secondly, I need to ask you a favor. I've been wondering if OCC ever released the tech manual (especially the BIOS sourcecode) for the EXEC. I have the field repair manual with the schematics, but I get hundreds of questions from exec owners that I just can't answer without digging through & disassembling the BIOS, and I haven't the time. Life would be a lot easier if the source were available. I know that FOG has access to one (all 6" of it) but that doesn't do me any good at all, since I'm so far away. If you know who might be willing to get me a copy (I'd gladly pay whatever it costs, up to $150 or maybe even more) or who at OSBORNE would have access to such stuff I'd really appreciate knowing — all my 'influential friends' have abandoned the 'sinking ship'. Ideally I'd like the entire thing, but would settle for whatever I can get. (Is there anyone at OCC susceptible to a bribe?)

Some good news, Craig, if you will take a look at the OCC order form in this issue, you will see the Executive Technical manual has been added to the list. The price is $125.00 — the manual is 950 pages in (I think) five volumes. NOT to be compared with the Osborne 1 "Technical Manual", this gem has some real answers and information, including the source code for the BIOS.

Now I've a few words which may be of help to some members. Use any or all or none of this for issues of the ***FOGHORN***. I just read Scott Stockton's article in the March ***FOGHORN***, and I'm afraid he's making the same mistake that all the previous blinker authors have made. The blinking cursor question is one which has been going on a long time — we first worked up a version some time back, when I was president of BDOS (the Best Damn Osborne Society) in San Diego. It (along with many other programs which we developed for the Osborne 01) addressed fixed locations within the machine ROM and the BIOS. Although I knew this was wrong, I thought I would get away with it because it would never be moved to any other machine. I assumed the addresses wouldn't change. That was when the oldest "rev. A" romsets were in our machines, and as any oldtimers know we have seen FIVE official and nine (that I'm aware of) unofficial variations on that romset since then. Major changes occurred with Revisions 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4, and revision 1.44 is the latest (and presumably the last) of the ROM upgrades.

I long ago developed routines that would work on ANY of these romsets without any modification, and the principle is one which has been known to CP/M programmers for a long time. Instead of using a known (assumed) starting address for the BIOS, we simply look to see what it is, then calculate our desired addresses by adding an offset. Not only will this make a software routine compatible with any of the romsets, but it will even work when MOVECPM has been used to create a different-sized CP/M system (this means that you can use such routines even if you install the FANTASTIC and INEXPENSIVE real-time clock from JG Communications).

The basic technique is to make your routine find the starting address of BDOS by looking at the very first three bytes in CP/M's memory. These always contain a JUMP to the warm boot routine, which is always at the third address into BDOS. All of the system addresses are at relatively fixed offsets from this first warm boot vector. When you look at my code you'll see that all (non hardware-fixed) calls are calculated as offset from that one address, found in locations 1 and 2 of CP/M.

There is one more major difference between my routine and the previously published routines. Bob Hamilton correctly noted that with the published routines if the screen scrolling is left on (ugh!) then you will often find yourself with a blank screen or a lost cursor when the cursor wraps around but the screen fails to move back. The scrolling corrects itself when you press any key, but the whole mess is very annoying. I have been marketing a WORDSTAR ENHANCER which (among other things) automatically installs the blinking cursor, and in my early versions I had noted the same problem. The reason for the problem is that the OS-1 fails to update the scrolling when printing to the screen or when checking console status. Instead, the screen scrolling is updated only when actual console INPUT is requested. The fix is to always get some dummy input whenever blinking the cursor, so that the screen is always in the most up-to-date position. This makes for a more complicated program, but one which works better.

Oh, yes — I think it's a **Bad Idea** to break into WORDSTAR at a random location in order to blink the cursor. In unusual circumstances (which I won't go into now) it has caused me lots of grief. A far better approach is just to use the "user-supplied console routine" areas thoughtfully provided for us by MicroPro. A jump to our routine is patched in at the user console input address, and our routine then goes back to WORDSTAR with a simple <RETURN>. This has the advantage of having been a fixed address in several versions of WORDSTAR, whereas the published method failed to work with any version except for WS 2.26 (although similar addresses could be found for any version). If you are adept at programming, then I hope you'll try it my way. I enclose the major part of the code from my proprietary ENHANCER blinking cursor routine for your programming pleasure. If you don't want to type it in (whaddaya mean you 'aren't into assembly language'?) then you can order THE ENHANCER as listed in our advertisements. You can try out the blinker and all the rest for two weeks & can get your money back if you don't like it.

```
;*************************************************************
; THIS IS THE WORKING PART OF THE UNIVERSAL BLINKER CODE, ALONG
; WITH CODE FOR SETTING THE ARROW KEYS. IT IS INTENDED FOR THE
; KNOWLEDGEABLE USER, AND IS NOT DOCUMENTED FOR THE NOVICE. IT
; COULD EASILY BE PUT INTO WSPATCH FOR NOVICE USERS...
;*************************************************************
            ORG MORPAT
PATCHST:                    JUMP HERE FROM USER CONIN AREA
;********* CURSOR BLINK **********
BLINK3      EQU TRMINI+07H  ;(LOCATE BLINK FLAG IN UNUSED AREA OF
                            WS)
;
BLINK1:     XRA A
            STA BLINK3      ;SET FLAG=0 FOR 1ST TIME THROUGH
TIMSET:     LXI D,$-$       ;BLINK RATE TIMR (YOU CHOOSE A SPEED)
LOOP3:                      ;REPEATS UNTIL CHARACTER READY
            CALL BLINK2     ;GET DIRECT CONIN
            ORA A           ;IF NO KEY READY THEN A=0, ELSE
                            A=CHARACTER
            MOV C,A         ;PUT CHARACTER WHERE WE CAN GET IT BACK
            JNZ RETRN1      ;**** RETURN TO WS (ONLY IF CHAR READY)
                            ****
            DCR E           ;BUT IF NOT READY, THEN
            JNZ LOOP3       ;DO INNER TIMING LOOP
            LDA BLINK3      ;SEE IF THIS IS 1ST TIME THROUGH
            ORA A           ;A=00 IF 1ST TIME,ELSE A=FF
            JNZ BLINK4      ;IF NOT 1ST TIME THEN NO FAKE INPUT
            CMA             ;SWITCH FROM A=00 TO A=FF
            STA LKEY        ;POKE IN FAKE KEYPRESS
            STA BLINK3      ;AND SET FLAG FOR NOT 1ST TIME
            CALL BLINK2     ;& CALL FOR FAKE CONSOLE INPUT
                            ;ALL TO FORCE CONIN TO FIX SCROLLING
BLINK4:     DCR D           ;DO OUTER TIMING LOOP UNTIL READY
YESNO:      JNZ LOOP3       ;IF NO BLINK DESIRED THEN CAN PATCH TO
                            ALWAYS LOOP
                            ;FALL THROUGH WITH ZERO FLAG SET
```

```
RETRN1:                         ;OR JUMP HERE WITH ZERO FLAG RESET
            LHLD 0EF5AH         ;POINT AT FIXED CURSOR LOCATION (ALL
                                ROMS)
            MVI A,80H           ;AND PUT 80H IN THE A REGISTER (HI
                                BIT=UNDERLINE)
            JNZ RETRN2          ;IF JUMPED IN, CURSOR ON & RETURN TO
                                WORDSTAR
            XRA M               ;BUT IF FELL THROUGH, TOGGLE CURSOR ON
                                OR OFF
            MOV M,A
            JMP TIMSET          ;RESTART TIMER
RETRN2:                         ;ARRIVE WITH VALID CHARACTER IN REG C
            ORA M               ;FORCE CURSOR ON
            MOV M,A
            MOV A,C
            RET                 ;TO WORDSTAR WITH CHARACTER IN C & A
;
;****** SUBROUTINE GETS DIRECT CONIN (SAVES DE) ******
BLINK2:
            PUSH D
            MVI C,06H           ;DIRECT CONIN
            MVI E,0FFH
            CALL BDOS
            POP D
            RET
;*****************************************************
;* ROUTINE TO PATCH LOCATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE ROMSET *
;*****************************************************
;
PATCH0:                         ;CALLED FROM INISUB IN WORDSTAR
            LHLD 0001H          ;BIOS START ADDRESS
            MOV A,H
            STA PATCH3+2        ;E5 FOR MONITOR 1.3 OR E1 FOR MONITOR
                                1.4
            LXI D,LSTCON1       ;offset to list status routine
            DAD D
            SHLD PRBUSY+1
;******** ARROW KEY & DRIVE SELECT ROUTINES **********
;
DRIVE:      MVI E,01H           ; CHOOSE DRIVE B:
            MVI C,0EH
            CALL 0005H
;
            CALL MOVEM          ;SET ARROW KEYS
            DB
            05H,04H,18H,13H     ;^E,^D,^X,^S
;
;****** RESET CP/M ARROW KEYS & DRIVE A SELECT ******
; CALLED FROM UNISUB IN WORDSTAR
DRIVE1:     XRA A               ;SET DEFAULT DRIVE = A:
            STA 0004H
;
            CALL MOVEM
            DB
            0BH,0CH,0AH,08H     ;^K,^L,^J,^H
;
;*****************************************************
;* ROUTINE MOVES FOUR BYTES INTO PLACE FOR ARROW KEYS *
;*****************************************************
;
MOVEM:
            POP D               ;SOURCE WAS ONE BYTE AFTER THE CALL
            LXI B,04H           ;LENGTH IS 4 BYTES
PATCH3:     LHLD $-$            ;ARROW KEY ADDRESS (PATCHED AT
                                RUNTIME)
            XCHG                ;SWAP DE AND HL SO HL=SOURCE AND
                                DE=DEST
            DB 0EDH,0B0H        ;LDIR
            RET
;********** TEST FOR LIST DEVICE STATUS **********
;
PRBUSY:     CALL $-$            ;PATCHED AT RUNTIME FOR EITHER 1.3 OR
                                1.4
            ANA A               ;COMPARE TO ITSELF (TEST FOR ZERO &
                                RESET CARRY)
            RNZ                 ;IF NONZERO THEN NOT BUSY SO RETURN
                                WITH CARRY=0
            CMC                 ;ELSE A=0 SO YES BUSY SO RETURN WITH
                                CARRY=1
            RET
PATCHND:
;END OF CODE SEGMENT
```

Here are some miscellaneous comments on some letters and articles from recent ***FOGHORN*** s.

NSWEEP.COM

NSweep DOES set the flags correctly, but only if you TAG the file(s) first. The latest version (2.00) correctly squeezes and unsqueezes files (again, only if you tag them first). It also allows you to copy files to other user areas and even to the same user area under a different name. On the latest version you can no longer single-line-scroll through a document when VIEWing — pressing any key causes a full page scroll. I think this is a bug.

WD-40

WD-40 is not a good way to renew your printer ribbons unless you plan to replace your printer pretty soon. I've used WD-40 for many years (mostly on racing yachts in the SF Bay area) and those of you who've used it much know that when it evaporates it leaves behind a gummy (and, as it turns out, abrasive) material. This abrades the print pins and will cause looseness and eventually sticking of the pins. We used to do this on our UNIX system printer at Berkeley, until they made us pay for a new printhead... The inks used for dot-matrix printers contain a special pin lubricant, and only such inks should be used. The MacInker and other similar products do an excellent job, and they are worth the money.

Harry Siemens

If Harry Siemens still needs to get his HONOR software converted from a non-OSBORNE format he can send it to me and I'll give it a try (no charge). We can read and write almost any 5 1/4 (single sided) or 8 (single or double sided) formats.

Keyboard Problems

The problems people have with their keyboards come in several flavors. There is a rational approach to figuring it out — all you need are two osbornes, a screwdriver, and a little time. This may sound silly, but out of the last fifty people who've called me with keyboard problems only ONE had done this first step: swap keyboards with another (known working) machine. If the problems move from your machine to your friend's machine (staying with the keyboard & cable) then the next step is to open up the keyboard (2 or 4 screws) and to swap cables between machines. Most of the time the problem can be localized to either a loose cable, a faulty cable, or a truly bad keyboard. In a few cases the problem remains with the computer (regardless of which keyboard/cable are used). Surprisingly enough, in many cases the problem occurs ONLY with a specific combination of computer, cable, and keyboard. No one component is clearly faulty.

If the cable is bad, get a replacement. If the keyboard is bad, pull the keycaps off & clean the insides thoroughly with compressed air and then with switch contact cleaner or tv/tuner cleaner. If that doesn't work you can still buy replacement keyboards from KEYTRONICS as well as from several OSBORNE dealers and from the XEROX centers. If the computer is bad or if only a combination of the parts is bad, then the fault lies with the voltages used to scan your keyboard. The voltage is SUPPOSED to be five solid volts between pin one of the blue resistor right behind your keyboard connector (labelled RN10 on the board) and pins 1 or 20 (ground pins) on the keyboard connector. In fact, the voltage often is less than five volts,

and in this case even a minimally poor connection or a high-resistance wire in your cable will cause problems. On one machine I jumpered this to another 12 volt source on the main board via a voltage-dividing resistor (it turned out that 3k worked well) and the problem was solved. Now it occurs to me that a better approach would be simply to put another resistor or resistors in parallel with the resistor-pack RN10 so that there's less of a voltage drop leading out to the keyboard. Just take a (roughly) 100K ohm resistor and connect it between pin one of the blue resistor-pack and each of the other pins (one at a time in turn) of the blue resistor-pack. Check your keyboard function at each step, until you find the one or more lines that need the extra parallel resistor. If none of this helps then it may be that you need a new keyboard line/column decoder chip (81LS95 or 74LS05 are the ones which are used in the OS-1).**CP/M-PLUS**

Incidentally, I noticed that CP/M-PLUS on the EXECUTIVE thinks that it is version 3.1, rather than 3.0... I'm not sure whether this makes any difference, but it is interesting to know.

Well, that's it for today. I hope some of this is of some use to somebody somewhere. If you print this then please also print an ALOHA to all my friends in beautiful Hawaii (from smoggy Washington D.C.)

Craig F. Feied MD
Sudden! Products
Washington, D.C.

* * * * * * *

Dear *FOGHORN*,

The article by William Bean, "dBASE II User Function Keys", appearing in the January ***FOGHORN***, page 32, concerned a dBASE version 2.3 bug that causes every other special-function-key character to be ignored. I lived with this bug, unhappily, until I bought the update (version 2.4), only to find that 2.4 had an even worse bug: it ignored all but the first character of each SFK.

But there is a happy ending. I wrote to Ashton-Tate and they sent me a patch that fixes the bug, and now my 2.4 issues all the SFK characters I've loaded.

Dave Brast
Point Reyes Station, CA

[*Well good Lord man, what is it! (The patch!!) Or is it in some form that you can't pass it along? David*]

* * * * * * *

Dear FOG,

I just received my Osborne Executive today and am very pleased with it except for a slight wavering on the left side of the screen near the disk drives. I have just a couple of things to say. I am writing mainly to let you know that the program Math Star does not work for the Executive since MATH* only patches into WordStar 2.26 or 3.0 and the Executive comes with WordStar 3.3. I wrote to FORCE 2, the company that owns MATH*, to find out if they will offer an update for Executive owners. The other comment I have was about Randall J. Shafer's letter concerning D.M. Hurst. I received my December issue of ***FOGHORN*** rather late and would have wrote you earlier about Mr. Shafer's letter. Undoubtedly you have received a number of comments about this subject. I for one would not like to have Mr. Hurst or Mr. Shafer "part company" from the ***FOGHORN***. I myself was surprised to read the review about the Zorba but I found it interesting to read along with the other articles Mr. Hurst has written. If I would have Mr. Hurst's address I would write to him myself to tell him so.

I hope to be able to find some time in the near future to contribute some more articles to the ***FOGHORN*** along with some comparisons between the Executive and the O-1.

Frederick Klarmeyer
Loring AFB, ME

[*Frederick, your letter was lost for a few months so, by now, you may have read of a fix for your "wavering screen" in the past issues. If not, connect FOG for details. David*]

* * * * * * *

DEAR FOG,

Items of Interest from the Westchester Osborne Group

1. I have a supply of ten TMM 2016 200 Nsec 2K X 8 static rams for the NEC 8510A - Prowriter upgrade which gives you an additional 2K buffer area for downloadable character sets/print buffer. More software work will be necessary for this project but installation is basically a snap. I suggest that the cable clamp to the printhead be released to give large hands more room to install the integrated circuit. (See detailed instructions elsewhere or when you purchase the IC.) If you ignore this hint, you run the risk of breaking the retaining ears on the socket, which is harder to recover from. [This is the voice of experience.] The cost is $6.00 at the meeting, or $7.00 by mail, at your risk.

2. OZ-VU® display screens are available from my company, Biophysics Co.,424 Manville Rd.#4, Pleasantville NY, 10570 for both the O1 and EXEC. Cost is a mere $9.95. These screens were demonstrated at the software faire, and dramatically improve contrast on the Osborne screen, as well as reducing glare.

3. I demonstrated a external fan for the tan-cased O-1 which keeps my ozzie running much cooler. Ingredients include a Rotron Sprite SU 2A5 mini fan, a GE V130LA20A surge supressor, a couple of small pieces of closed cell foam, an open cell foam filter, and less than a square foot of Fome-Cor(r) foam construction material. Write for details if interested.

4. In response to a request from members of WOG that I investigate the means to fool the COMM-PAC modem into going into Answer mode with carrier on without having the telephone ring, I have a partial answer. This question is being raised since people may want to begin a voice conversation over the telephone and then go to modem communication without redialing. With a manual modem this is no problem. I have a partial answer, which I hope will encourage someone else to complete the answer. First, It should be noted that the sequence of the wires between the 9 pin "MODEM" connector and the 10 pin socket on the modem is determined by the 9 pin socket, so, counting from the left the sequence is 1,6,2,7,3,8,4,9,5. According to the technical manual, pin 9 is the ring indicator. That line does not seem to change state when monitored with a digital voltmeter when the modem is answering a call. Nor does it change state during originate mode. I suspect that pin 9 has nothing to do with ring indication. On the other hand, pin 8, the mode control bit seems to do lots more. When the modem is quiescent, pin 8 is high. Pin 8 goes momentarily low during dialing pulses. When the modem goes into originate mode under software control, Pin 8 changes state to low all the time, and about 1/2 second after it changes state, the originate mode mark carrier comes on. Now here's the interesting point.... Turn on your Osborne with the modem plugged in. CAREFULLY insert a [sewing] pin through the fourth wire from the right on the blue cable, making sure that it sticks through the CENTER of the wire, so you do not have an inadvertent short. Obtain a connection to ground (I use the shell of the video connector, you can use pin 5 of the modem connector or pin 1 or 7 of the RS-232 connector.) Listen to the modem with a telephone connected to a T connector. You should hear a dial tone and after the half second delay, the originate mark tone. Recall that NO software is involved. Now, all that remains to be done is to find out where the REAL ring indicator is. Pulling down pin 9 to ground does nothing, contrary to documentation which claims that a transition from high to low signals RI. Stay tuned and send in the results of your sleuthing! Thanks. Its late and I'd better retire.

Gene Nelson
Pleasantville, NY

[*Editor's footnote: Gene sent this to me while he was monitoring to connector pins. He confirmed (by voice) that pin 9 does nothing! David*]

* * * * * * *

Dear Editor:

First, a question. What happened to my ***FOGHORN*** for March? My membership doesn't expire until July, so that can't be the reason it didn't come.

You should have received the replacement long before this issue was prepared but I would like to add a couple notes here to this often asked question. First, dBASE II doesn't pick on any member. It prepares a label for any member whose membership is current. It also gives me a count of how many copies should reach the Post Office. The mailing service only gets paid if the Post Office count matches.

So why didn't you get a ***FOGHORN*** *? FOG pays return postage for those copies the Post Office says it can't deliver. We also pay for address corrections. This is for the benefit of those members who forget to tell us when and where they moved to. We then mail the issue to the new address.*

For those whose issue still does not arrive, I can only suggest that the Post Office gremlin may have eaten, lost, shredded, or otherwise destroyed your ***FOGHORN****. You should discuss the matter with your local postmaster and fill out the complaint form which is available at every Post Office. Only if there is a volume of complaints about lost and delayed mail will the Post Office ever attempt to remedy the situation. — Gale Rhoades*

Next, I'd like to tell you (and perhaps the ***FOGHORN*** readership) about teaming my Osborne 1 with a Smith-Corona Deville III Messenger electronic portable typewriter. The combination works well (if slowly) together. This Smith-Corona is a triple pitch, correcting, computer interface capable machine that features ribbon cassettes and changeable printwheels. It sells for about $400.

To interface with the Osborne 1, a "Messenger Module" that costs about $150 is purchased separatly. The module works as either RS 232-C Serial or Centronix compatible parallel (both connectors are included on the module). I set my system up serial, because I use the Osborne parallel port for my dot-matrix printer, and I didn't want to always be pulling and pushing on cable connectors or have to buy an expensive switch.

To make the cable, I used four strand shielded cable (25 ft.) and two connectors. This cable can be up to 50 feet long, in case you want to put the typewriter in another room (which is not a bad idea because the machine is rather noisy). The pin setup is: printer - pins 2 (TXD), 3 (RXD), 7 (GND/GND), 20 (DTR ALT. BUSY); Osborne - pins 2 (TXD), 3 (RXD), 1&7 (SGND GND), 20 (DTR ALT> BUSY).

To get up and running, put your copies of WordStar in drive B and Utility in drive A, and type SETUP. At the prompt, select A for source, and when presented with the menu, select: Printer-Standard Serial, Baud rate-1200, Arrow Keys-WordStar, screen width to 104 (you will need to have the Osborne 1 SCREEN-PAC, or other screen upgrade for this). I also programmed several commands for my function keys that I find handy:

0 LA:(cr)
1 LB:(cr)
2 ^QQ^B
3 ^KS^QP
4 ^KS
5 ^KD
6 .PL26(cr).MT12(cr).MBO (for envelopes)
7 ^KS^V.CW10(cr).PC45(cr)^OL9(cr)^OR75(cr)(cr)(cr)^V (for letters)
8 ^KB
9 ^KK

The .CW 10 is for 12 pitch on the Smith-Corona. Exit SETUP and choose B to save the changes on your WordStar disk.

Next, installation of special codes for the Smith-Corona is necessary to set pitch, underscore (word and line), and to modify the way WordStar works for me. Keep WordStar in B, and Utility in A.

After getting the A prompt, type INSTALL<cr>, which brings on a series of menus, from which you choose the final WordStar installation based on the prompts chosen. To the first prompt, answer N(o). Answer B to the next prompt. Type B:WS.COM and B:WS.COM to the next two prompts. To the terminal choice menu,choose U. The PRINTER MENU choice is C - any "Teletype-like printer that can backspace". The correct choices are NONE required (for communications protocol) and L (CP/M list device). Next, answer with a N(o) for the "are modifications complete" question. The screen will now ask you what locations you want to modify. Read the instructions carefully and follow exactly. The locations (and old/new values) are:

Location changed	Old value	New Value	Function
ITHELP:	03	0	Sets start help level to zero (no menu).
380	40	56	Sets default ruler line to 86 characters (12 pitch).
WID:	50	66	Sets maximum length of ruler to 102 characters before word-wrap occurs.
INITWF:+4	FF	0	Turns hyphen-help off.
INITWF:+1	FF	0	Turns right margin justification off.
ITPOPN:	00	FF	Turns automatic page numbering off.
PALT:	00	03 1B 1F OC	Alternate character pitch set to 10.
PSTD:	00	03 1B 1F OA	Standard character pitch set to 12.
RIBBON:	00	04 08 1B 45 5F	Underscore all line, using ^PY.
RIBOFF:	00	04 1B 52	Underscore all mode cancelled ^PY.

All the other default values remain unchanged. The typewriter will perform double-strike/boldface but not sub-script/super-script because the carriage will not roll up/down partial lines.

When finished with the changes, enter zero in response to the NEXT LOCATION prompt, then return (<cr>), get out, save the changes, and get back to the A prompt. Choose disk B to save the changes.

Next, push the reset, put the new WordStar disk in A, and enjoy the changes (full width screen editing with no menu taking up the top half of the screen, configured for correspondence typed in 12 pitch, printed on a high quality typewriter-printer). The typewriter is slow (about 12 CPS) and not recommended for high volume production. However, for someone like me who needs the machine for low volume printing and typing, its really great.

The keyboard touch on this typewriter is the best of any of the four or five machines my wife and I tried when we shopped for a typewriter, except for the IBM Selectric.

P.S. I'm not a salesman or rep. for Smith-Corona. I just feel they merit a pat on the back for putting out a good value typewriter/printer.

Bob Evans
Sacramento, CA

* * * * * * *

Dear Gale:

I wrote to you about two months ago to let you know about the treatment I had received from a software company, Learning Shack, Inc., located in Irvine, CA, and wanted to bring you up to date. The program purchased from them was called HomeTax. I was unable to get the program to work all the way through no my Osborne, and I contacted them to tell them so. After sending them the upgraded disks to be recopied I tried them out, only to have the recopied disks crash in the same place. Another telephone call to the company elicited the promise of new disks in a few days when the recognized bug was worked out. To date, I have received no reworked disks. Further telephone calls to this company were fruitless, and they did not respond to my letter to them. For several weeks I was unable to contact

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TIPS FOR TYROS

How to Write a Message for Uploading to an RBBS

by Gerhard Barth

Following is the procedure I use for entering pre-written messages to remote BBS's via MDM730, Hayes Smartmodem 1200 and my Osborne-1. I used it also with MDM715 and it should work fine with any MDM7XX version. It not only saves time, but allows you to change your message off-line until you are satisfied that it really says what you want it to say! In addition, the RBBS will be tied up for less time.

1. Name and prepare your message with Wordstar in the N-mode. To transmit a blank line (to separate paragraphs, for example) hit the spacebar a few times on that line, otherwise the transmission will not go beyond it. Also, do not use the tab-key; if you want to indent, use the spacebar. Count the lines - some RBBS's allow only 16 or 24 lines per message! Enter two <CR>s at end of message.

2. Save message to disk in drive B. With Wordstar still in drive A, print a hard copy. Note on it: to whom the message is addressed, the subject and the message name - information which you have to enter when requested while on line (this sounds trivial, but this way you avoid complications should you happen to forget the exact message name while in the terminal mode. Also, another chance for proof reading!).

3. Load MDM7XX program in drive A. After setting transmission speed (COMMAND:SET) at 300 or 1200, log in drive B (COMMAND:LOG B:) and go into terminal mode (COMMAND:T fn), where fn is the file name under which you wish to capture. Open memory buffer (^Y) and go back into command mode with ^E. Sofar, everything is routine. Now type SPD, to set the delays for the transmission of your message (IMPORTANT!). I found that settings of 90 ms between characters (type 9 in answer to the first question) and 300 ms at end of line (type 3 to answer second question) work best.

4. Call RCPM, enter message module. Indicate that you want to enter a message (usually "E"). Answer "to whom?" and "subject?". When prompted to enter message, type ^T. Enter name of your message (You may want to glance at your hard copy!). Answer "time delay?" question with Y(ES) and watch as your message is being transmitted!

5. If you don't see the "(A)bort,(C)ontinue etc" menu at the end of the transmission, enter <CR>.

6.(L)ist before (S)ave to check for transmission errors.

Good luck and enjoy!

* * * * * * *

ATTENTION

Page 2 of every ***FOGHORN*** is reserved for membership information. Please refer to it for the additional postage charges for 1st class and non-U.S. delivery of the ***FOGHORN***.

Mailers for Disks

by Benjamin H. Cohen

Some of you may have seen a letter of mine published in ***Portable Computer*** which offered a disk with public domain graphics games as an antidote to an article published last fall in that magazine which asserted that there were no graphics games for CP/M based computers. (The games, DUCK.BAS, SNAKE2.COM, and BREAK.COM, are all in the library.) I got about 40 responses, and that meant I needed a simple inexpensive mailer. I knew that corrugated mailers were available for about a dollar, but that was a bit expensive for my taste, and besides they are heavy: with a disk and a FOG membership application they tip the scales at nearly three full ounces, thus costing 54 cents for postage. I had to find a simple inexpensive way to handle this project.

Inexpensive materials readily suggested themselves. As a lawyer I often receive mail in 9" x 12" or 10" x 15" envelopes. Even if you have to buy them, they cost from 8 cents in large quantities to perhaps 20 cents in small quantities. (If you buy 10" x 15" envelopes you can cut them in half and make two mailers!) A supply of 8.5" x 11" thin cardboards (similar to the type on the back of a writing tablet or what we used to get from the laundry with a shirt) turned up, as it happened, at no cost. I haven't tried to buy any, but your local instant printer ought to be able to supply some for a dime or less.

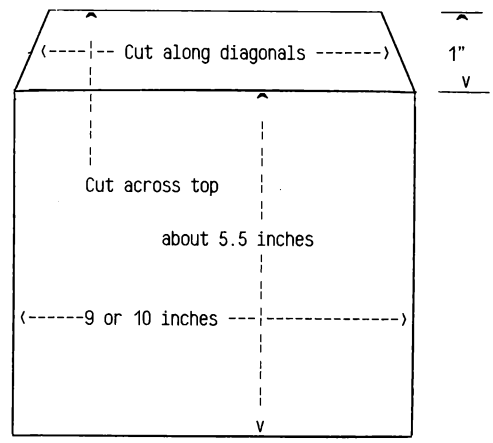
I took a piece of the cardboard and folded it in half, then shoved it into the bottom of an envelope. I cut off the envelope about an inch above the top of the cardboard, and trimmed the corners off at the open end, leaving two flaps.

Before putting a disk in the envelope, hit it with your rubber stamps for "First Class Mail" and "Do Not Bend" and put the addresses on.

The disk and FOG membership application are then shoved into the envelope. The old back of the envelope becomes the new front. I generally find that the old front needs little or no marking to make it obvious that it is no longer the working side of the envelope. The back flap of the envelope gets tucked inside over the cardboard. The front flap is folded over the old front and taped down.

This procedure results in a mailer that weighed in at just under two ounces, saving 17 cents on each mailing, and even if you had to buy the materials you'd only spend about thirty cents per mailer, far below what commercial mailers cost.

I have mailed out over 40 disks using this system and have not had any problems with the mailers. In fact, one of the recipients with a Kaypro II had some problems with the disk and with understanding how to use an Osborne format disk in his computer and returned the disk to me, in the original mailer. I returned it to him, he sent it back a second time, and I just put the same mailer in the letter drop for its fifth trip of a thousand miles!



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ARTICLES

1200 Baud vs. 300 Baud Which Should You Have?

by Carl Warner

Thinking about getting a 1200 baud modem because you think you're spending a little too much time and money on the phone? Well, consider carefully what you even need the faster speed for **and** consider the quirks that the higher speed modem might present to you before you rush out and buy one.

First, take a look at what you use your modem for the most. You really can narrow it down to one of two things: 1) file downloading (from RCP/Ms and friends), and 2) viewing messages or information (such as those found on Computerized Bulletin Board Systems and time charge systems such as the Source and Compuserve).

DOWNLOADING FILES

Speed Gained

If you only download (or upload) files to RCPM systems and your friends, then you're really going to like the change from 300 baud to 1200 baud. You know that file that took you 12 minutes to transfer? Well, anyone will like the extra time gained by doing the same task in only 3 minutes.

Money Saved

Yes, not only will you save your own time but the time that your favorite phone company is billing you by. The cost will be cut down by 75% on your long distance bills.

However, if you think you are going to save a bundle on your long distance charges by using both the 1200 baud modem and an alternative long distance service such as Sprint, MCI, ITT, or Western Union, look before you leap. Maybe you can and maybe you can't. It depends. Read the section below labeled "QUIRKS".

BULLETIN BOARDS AND INFORMATION NETWORKS

Here is where the 1200 baud modem is of dubious help. You neither can type as fast as 1200 baud is nor read messages that pop up on your screen at 1200 baud. For retrieving text and messages to be viewed on-screen, 1200 baud modems are a waste of a good thing and if you heavily use CBBS's and the SOURCE or Compuserve, don't bother with a 1200 baud modem. Information utilities generally charge you twice as much as 300 baud costs, but if you can't read or type four times faster than 300 baud anyway, it isn't worth the effort.

QUIRKS

If you've ever read the fine print (labelled "NOTES") on a copy of the REMOTE CP/M SOFTWARE EXCHANGE SYSTEMS LIST (it looks something like the filename RCPM-045.LST on most RCP/Ms), then you may have read the end of note #3 regarding the use of the alternative long distance services that reads: "...you might sometimes have trouble going 1200 baud."

It has been my own experience that this is true. However, let me tell you my own situation. This problem may or may not vary depending on your local phone company. Because of where I reside, I fall under the jurisdiction of G.T.E. for my local service. I signed up with Sprint to cut down on my phone bills when I was still using the Hayes Smartmodem 300. It helped quite a bit despite my increased propensity to call faraway RCPMs (New Jersey, Orlando, Thousand Oaks, etc.) thinking that I really could afford it.

However, when I switched over to the 1200 baud version, I was in for a rude awakening. Still using Sprint, I began to have a great deal of trouble even properly connecting up to many RCPMs, trying sometimes as many as three and four recalls to finally get a proper connection. Even then, depending on the line noise, I still ran the risk of being disconnected in mid-stream for no apparent reason. If you attempt to operate at 1200 baud, your modem speaker should let you first hear a high pitched clear tone, then a raspy sounding lower pitched noise, and finally a raspy sounding higher pitched noise before the data connection is made. With Sprint, I have had extreme difficulty getting that last low pitched noise and have ended up being the victim of automatic disconnect.

This problem is not one of the modem itself, but is to be expected on occasion due to the way the 1200 baud modem functions. Two of the more popular brands of 1200 baud modems warn you, the buyer, only after you have purchased their modems and you are reading the fine print in their reference material.

In the U.S. Robotics, Inc. Auto Dial 212A User's Guide, the statement is made that "calls placed over microwave carriers such as MCI and Sprint will often have errors." To state it further, the guide says that "communication is often impossible over MCI, Sprint and other microwave carrier networks."

The Hayes Smartmodem 1200 Hardware Reference Manual doesn't address the Sprint problem as dramatically and succintly as the U.S. Robotics guide. However, Hayes states that the high speed transmission "unavoidably increase(s) the probability of error due to noise and distortion."

Both Hayes and U.S. Robotics warn that a left brace ({) or a lower case letter "i" on your screen during 1200 baud communications is not a hardware defect nor a strange occurrence. I can attest to that. After momentarily taking my eyes away from my monitor, to see what file I wanted to download, I came back to an A> prompt followed by numerous {'s and "i"'s.

After having my problems with the GTE/Sprint connection, I decided to go back to the supposedly more expensive GTE/AT&T connection and give that a try at 1200 baud. I found that it worked like a charm. I have always connected up the first time and the line has not played games with me by just disconnecting me in the middle of a download. In short, it was what I expected from telephone computer communications-- no surprises.

I was a bit puzzled by all of this because, just as MCI, Sprint, and the others, AT&T also uses a microwave carrier network for transmitting long distance phone calls. I did a little bit of digging around and came up with the following non-technical explanation to answer the question as to why AT&T works for me and the others do not.

It's another case of "You get what you pay for." It seems that because you are saving up to 50% on long distance charges with the alternative companies, you are in effect trading off the quality of your communications. As far as voice transmission goes, there isn't much difference to the ear. But as far as the higher speed 1200 baud modem goes, there is a distinct difference and the intermittent noise, that occurs when using Sprint or similar company, drives the modem crazy. You are subject to no connects, disconnects, and general gibberish on your screen, without mercy.

As it was explained to me by an AT&T Long Lines employee (maybe biased, but apparently not), AT&T costs the consumer more because of the quality of the long distance calls. AT&T utilizes fairly sophisticated equipment at each of its microwave stations not only cleaning up the signal when it reaches the next station but also cleaning it up or conditioning the transmission before it is even sent on to the next microwave receiving station. This keeps out things such as hiss, crackling, echo, and the like-- all conditions that the 1200 baud modem can't stand.

MODEM COST

The cost of the 1200 baud modems, depending on what make and model you can get that works with your computer, can cost anywhere from $350 up to about $550. My Hayes Smartmodem 1200 cost me

cont. on page 27

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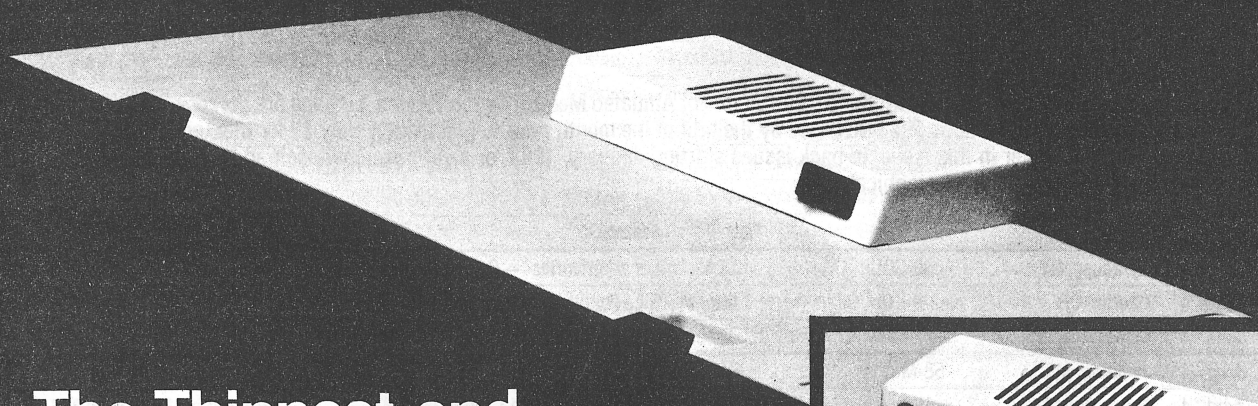

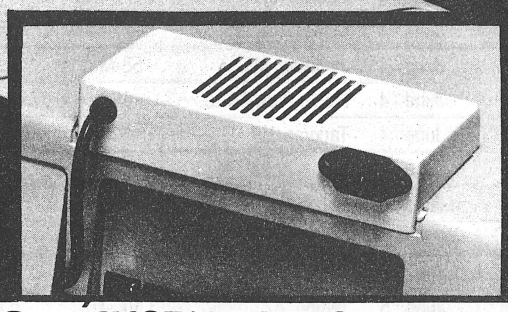

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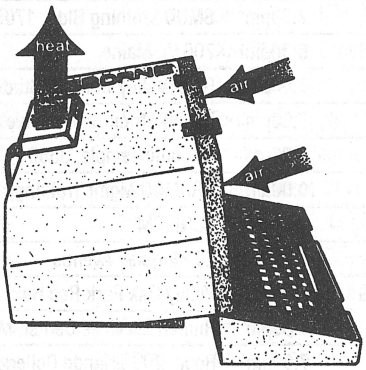

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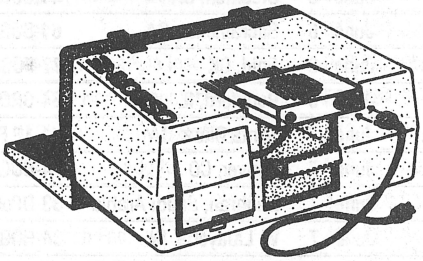

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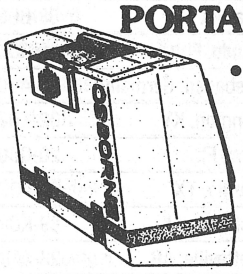

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CALENDAR

Under this heading you will find the listing of activities and events of Affiliated Member Organizations. Listings are the responsibility of organization officers. Officers must have corrections into FOG office by the first of the month prior to publication (July 1st for the August issue). For a list of other groups, see ***"CONTACTS"*** later in this issue, in back issues starting January, 1983, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the FOG offices. Please include a note with your geographical area.

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
1st Su	June 3	Syracuse, NY	82-SOUP	1:00pm	Location Varies — Confirm	315-471-1405
1st M	June 4	Oberlin, OH	9-^Ob^Os	7:00pm	Rice Faculty Lounge, Oberlin College	216-775-8290
	June 4	Milwaukee, WI	22-MilwOG	7:00pm	Engin & Math Science Bldg. Rm E495, Univ. of WI	414-691-4241
	June 4	Jackson, MS	58-MCPM	6:00pm	R & D Center, 3825 Ridgewood Rd,, 5th Fl Conf Rm.	601-366-0928
	June 4	Menlo Park,CA	68-SMOG³	7:30pm	Crane Place, 1331 Crane	415-326-2543
	June 4	Tacoma, WA	72-TOG	7:00pm	Pierce Co. Library (Basement Mtg Rm) 404 Garfield So.	206-752-5582
	June 4	Bloomington, IN	87-IOU	7:30pm	Indiana Univ, Jordon Hall, Room 440	812-339-4754
	June 4	Capetown, South Africa	96-COGSA	57:30pm	Meladata Solutions, Strand 55	021-25-6182
1st Tu	June 5	Santa Maria, CA	42-SMOG	7:00pm	Allstate Savings & Loan, 401 South Broadway	805-937-1128
	June 5	Oakwood, OH	79-DOUG	7:30pm	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Dixon Ave.	513-932-6990
	June 5	Tempe, AZ	100-TOG	6:40pm	Tempe Public Library, Southern Ave @ Rural Rd	602-438-2731
1st W	June 6	Stockton, CA	11-SOG	7:00pm	Allen's Computerland 4343 Pacific Ave.	209-475-8440
	June 6	Sacramento, CA	61-SOG	7:00pm	SMUD Training Bldg, 1708 59th St	916-422-3260
	June 6	Enid, OK	77-FOG/E	5:30pm	706 W. Maine	405-233-9103
	June 6	Rockford, IL	84-GROG	7:00pm	Rock Valley College, Student Center Rm 134	815-398-1280
1st Th	June 7	Santa Clara, CA	1-1st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-856-0954
	June 7	Denver, CO	4-DOG	8:00pm	Masonic Temple, 3550 Federal Blvd.	303-759-0359
	June 7	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	33-DPoG	10:00am	ARAMCO Mgmt Training Center	874-4798
	June 7	W. Lafayette, IN	34-HOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	317-743-5275
	June 7	Auckland, New Zealand	53-NZOG	7:30pm	20 Kingsley Avenue	659-738
	June 7	Santa Rosa, CA	56-No. Bay FOG	7:00pm	Valley Oak Park Rec Hall, 2600 Northcoast	707-546-0145
	June 7	Sitka, AK	83-BUG	7:30pm	Human Services Center, Moller Dr.	907-747-5372
each Th	June 7	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
1st F	June 1	Wiesbaden, Germany	24-AGOG	7:00pm	Hainerberg Cafeteria	0612-213276
1st Sa	June 2	Lexington, KY	32-KOG	12:00n	Room 128, Erickson Hall, University of Kentucky	606-623-1884
2nd Su	June 10	Miami, FL	26-GCOUG	1:00pm	F.I.U Tamiami Campus, Building DM, Room 100	305-255-7827
	June 10	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	Downtown Branch Amarillo Public Library	806-355-7509
	June 10	Ketchikan, AK	89-KCPM	4:00pm	320 Bawden Suite 101	907-225-6476
2nd M	June 11	Fayetteville, AR	23-AFOG	7:00pm	Alternates between Ft. Smith — CONFIRM	501-575-2980
	June 11	Fresno, CA	35-FROG	7:00pm	Village Computer Sy stems, 3081 W. Bullard	209-222-2233
	June 11	Evansville, IN	46-E-OSBUG	6:30pm	Oaklyn Branch Evansville Library, Oakhills & Lynch	812-479-5108
	June 11	Edmonton, Alb	45-KOG	7:30pm	Alberta Vocational College, 10215 - 108 Street	403-459-0416
	June 11	Toronto, Ont	49-TASOFOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	416-889-2072
	June 11	Charlotte, NC	71-LOGIC	7:30pm	CONFIRM	704-377-1154
	June 11	Calgary, Alta	94-COUG	7:30pm	931 - 32nd Ave NE	403-297-6281
2nd Tu	June 12	Ames, IA	12-Midwest FOG	7:00pm	IA State (old engineering annex) W. Lincoln Way	515-266-8764
	June 12	Memphis, TN	15-MOG	7:00pm	34th Fl., Clark Bldg., Federal Express Conf. Rm	901-767-2350
	June 12	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	7:00pm	West America Bank, Strawberry Village	415-892-2713
	June 12	Lincoln, NE	39-Lincoln LOG	7:30pm	Smith Curtis Bldg., NE Wesleyan Univ., 52nd & St. Paul	402-472-1392
	June 12	Omaha, NE	44-OACP/MUG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	402-348-0440
	June 12	Montreal, PQ	73-Microcozm	6:30pm	AES Data, 100 Alexis Nihon Blvd, Ste. 810	514-849-7761
	June 12	London, Ont	95-LOG	7:30pm	Elborn College, Room 2116	519-434-4842

Continued next page

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
2nd W	June 13	Oakland, CA	3-East Bay FOG	6:00pm	B & B Electric, 2832 Ford Street	415-834-9346
	June 13	Vancouver, BC	17-VPCC	7:30pm	Hastings Community Center, 3096 East Hastings	604-298-6990
	June 13	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-792-7959
	June 13	Clayton, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Mid County Library, Central & MD	314-862-6239
	June 13	Oklahoma City, OK	67-OKLOG	7:00pm	3400 N.W. Grand Blvd	405-843-5925
	June 13	Cleveland, OH	75-COG	7:00pm	Trinity Cathedral House, East 22nd & Euclid Ave.	216-871-2532
	June 13	Athens, GA	81-COG	7:30pm	Athens Federal Savings, Barnett Shoals Road	404-353-2127
	June 13	W. Hempstead, NY	88-LION	7:30pm	Adelphi Univ Cont Ed Ctr, Eagle Ave	212-327-2321
	June 13	Johannesburg, So Africa	90-JOG	7:30pm	GBS Bldg — Wang Auditorium	011-51-6304
	June 13	Jacksonville, FL	98-JOUG	7:00pm	JEA Bldg, 233 W. Duval Street	904-771-3427
	June 13	Ithaca, NY	101-FLOG	7:30pm	Cornell Univ, 694 Uris Hall	607-257-2030
2nd Th	June 14	Davis, CA	6-DOG	7:30pm	CONFIRM	916-756-2967
	June 14	Sioux City, IA	38-SOG	7:30pm	Western Iowa Tech., Room 508	712-252-2182
	June 14	Modesto, CA	48-Tule FOG		CONFIRM	209-578-4909
	June 14	Medford, OR	54-RVOG	7:30pm	33 No. Central #306	503-482-8646
	June 14	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	91-FLOG	7:00pm	Harris Comp Sys, 2101 W. Cypress Creek	305-748-7237
alter Th	June 14	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	June 14	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
2nd F	June 8	Salinas, CA	5-MBAOCUG	7:00pm	Castroville Fire Station, Speegle & Pomber	408-449-4021
	June 8	Chatsworth, CA	86-ONUG	7:00pm	Wizard of OsZ, 9614 C Cozycroft Ave	818-709-6202
2nd Sa	June 9	Bangkok, Thailand	36-BOG	1:00pm	Action Computers 5/26 Saladaeng Road, Silom	662-311-4966
	June 9	Louisville, KY	64-PCC	1:00pm	Univ. of Louisvile, Shelby Campus, Rm 202 Burhans Hall	502-423-0451
	June 9	River Grove, IL	80-CFOG	1:00pm	Liberal Arts Bldg, Triton College	312-654-0986
3rd M	June 18	Raleigh, NC	8-ROCC	7:30pm	CONFIRM — Dreyfus Aud., Research Triangle Inst.	919-782-9576
	June 18	Wenatchee, WA	10-WOG	7:00pm	Computer Systems Marketing,1030 North Wenatchee	509-884-3279
	June 18	Detroit, MI	14-DeFOG	7:30pm	Ford Tech Center Cafeteria, 1700 Rotunda Dr, Dearborn	313-471-1342
	June 18	Anchorage, AK	63-GLOB	8:30pm	Anchorage Comm. College, 2nd Floor — Bldg K	907-277-0950
	June 18	Menlo Park, CA	68-SMOG[3]	7:30pm	Crane Place, 1331 Crane	415-326-2543
	June 18	Marietta, GA	93-GROG	7:00pm	Georgia Tech, Cobb County Research Fac.	404-422-6416
3rd Tu	June 19	Cincinnati, OH	27-COG	7:00pm	Central Trust Center 6th floor, 5th & Main Streets	513-232-4076
	June 19	San Luis Obispo, CA	47-CCOG	7:00pm	Chris Jespersen School, 251 Grand Ave.	805-466-8311
3rd W	June 20	Austin, TX	7-AEIOU	6:30pm	Old Quarry Library off Far West Blvd.	512-837-7539
	June 20	Oak Ridge, TN	13-SMOG	7:30pm	ECS 136 Fairbanks (**OR** 11505 Kingston Pike, Knoxville)	615-482-7919
	June 20	Las Vegas, NV	25-VOG	6:00pm	Las Vegas Library, 1726 East Charleston	702-452-2544
	June 20	Humboldt, CA	29-HOG	7:00pm	Room 126 Science Bldg., Humboldt State	707-445-2074
	June 20	Dunbar, WV	59-Valley FOG	6:30pm	Dunbar Public Library	304-727-6436
	June 20	Walnut Creek, CA	60-Mt. DOG	7:00pm	SF Federal, 1660 Olympic Blvd, Diablo Rm	415-933-2665
	June 20	Kaiserslautern, WG	62-FROG	7:00pm	Vogelweh Recreation	49-6371-52364
	June 20	Midway, WA	99-SKOG	7:30pm	Highline Comm. Coll, Gold Rm — Bldg 4	206-941-2192
3rd Th	June 21	Santa Clara, CA	1-1st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-856-0954
	June 21	Provo, UT	30-KAOS	8:00pm	Wiltec Research Co. 488 South 500 West	801-225-8293
	June 21	College Station, TX	43-AGGNOG	5:30pm	A & A Building, Texas A & M Univ.	409-845-5814
	June 21	Ann Arbor, MI	37-TOGA[2]	7:00pm	Neuro Science Bldg. Univ. of MI, 1103 East Huron St	313-662-9026
	June 21	Tulsa, OK	51-OUT	7:00pm	Micro Systems, 2010 South 68th East Ave	918-584-5610
	June 21	Richmond, VA	52-CVOG	7:00pm	Red Cross Bldg, 4th and Main	804-270-9404
	June 21	St. Croix, VI	70-StCOUG	7:30pm	College of the Virgin Islands	809-773-7551
	June 21	Garden City, NY	88-LION	7:30pm	Control Data Ed Ctr, 1325 Franklin Ave	212-327-2321
	June 21	Lemoyne, PA	92-MIDPOG	7:30pm	One Stop Computer, 65 N. 5th St	717-732-2937
each Th	June 21	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
3rd F	June 16	Houston, TX	76-OUCH	7:30pm	Univ. Houston, 101 Farish Hall, KIVA Rm. (Use lot 13A off Cullen)	713-688-8149
3rd Sa	June 17	Kenai, AK	18-PenFOG	10:00am	Room V111, Kenai Peninsula Comm. College	907-262-5801
	June 17	Norfolk, VA	78-TOG	9:00am	Armed Forces Staff College, Hampton Blvd	804-495-1596

Continued next page

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
4th Su	June 24	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	CONFIRM	806-355-7509
	June 24	Pittsburgh, PA	50-TROG	2:30pm	Mellon Science Building, Duquesne Univ.	412-456-3946
4th M	June 25	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	6:30pm	CONFIRM	415-892-2713
	June 25	Davenport, IA	102-QCOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	319-386-3484
4th Tu	June 26	Wichita, KS	21-OPEK	7:30pm	St. Paul's Methodist Church, 13th & Broadway	316-945-8389
	June 26	Greenville, SC	41-POGO	6:30pm	C. Douglas Wilson, 201 E. North Street	803-233-3434
	June 26	St. Louis, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Thornhill Library, 12863 Willowyck	314-862-6239
4th W	June 27	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-792-7959
	June 27	Portland, OR	57-PMS	7:00pm	Bonneville Power Admin. Aud.	503-642-9692
	June 27	Athens, GA	81-COG	7:30pm	Athens Federal Savings, Barnett Shoals Road	404-353-2127
4th Th	June 28	San Francisco, CA	2-SF FOG	7:00pm	St. Aidan's Church, Goldmine & Diamond Hgts.	415-334-2851
Th	June 28	Lancaster, PA	74-LOG	7:30pm	Fire Protection Sys, 1873 Lincoln Hwy East	717-898-8929
alter Th	June 28	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	June 28	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
last Su	June 24	River Grove, IL	80-CFOG	1:00pm	Liberal Arts Bldg, Triton College	312-654-0986
last Tu	June 26	Santa Barbara, CA	69-OSBUG	7:30pm	SB Planning Rm, 105 E. Anapamu St	805-687-8541
	June 26	Kansas City, KS	97-MIZOG	7:00pm	TWA Bldg, 13th & Baltimore	816-455-2824
last W	June 27	Richland, WA	19-TROG	7:00pm	1776 Fowler	509-375-3258
????		, CA	65-ENROBSO		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	408-458-9047
????		Sierra Madre, CA	66-SMOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	818-355-8825
????		Jakarta, Indonesia	85-JOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	021-333-880

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cont. from page 22

$509 back in August and can be had for less than that.

In contrast, the cost of a good auto-dial, direct connect 300 baud modem will cost considerably less — around $170 to $250.

IN SUMMARY

If the price tag of the 1200 baud modems doesn't scare you away first, examine what you're going to be using the higher speed modem for. 1) If it's mainly downloading files, then a 1200 baud modem will probably be invaluable for you and will pay for itself fairly quickly. 2) However, if all you do is trade short messages, electronic mail, and on-screen information, then the 1200 baud modem is going to be a buy that you might not need to make. 3) If you do a combination of the two typical uses of modems, don't worry about trying to read messages on your 1200 baud modem. It operates at 300 baud, too. This is also useful for the RCPMs that haven't yet gone to 1200 baud. When they do, though, you'll be ready for them.

* * * * * * *

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Michael Lovell
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BOOK REVIEWS

"The Elements of Programming Style" May Make Your Coding Time More Worthwhile

by Chris Hill

Most of us who program computers have learned about programming largely by poking around with the machine, trying this and that. If we have read anything about programming techniques, it was probably written by an academic who preached at us about the necessity of starting with a flowchart. In *The Elements of Programming Style*, Brian Kernighan and P. J. Plauger (McGraw-Hill, 2nd ed., 1978) have put together a fascinating and amusing book about how you can avoid common pitfalls and blunders in programming thereby using your time more effectively and making programming more enjoyable.

The Elements of Programming Style takes its examples of bad programming right out of university textbooks on programming! Most of the programs used as examples have out-and-out bugs, and all of them have blunders of style that inhibit readability or efficiency. The authors rewrite the "bad" code so that it is usually more compact, always more readable, and at least as efficient in terms of execution speed. They use aphorisms like "use data arrays to avoid repetitive control sequences", "make input easy to prepare and output self-explanatory", and "make sure your code 'does nothing' gracefully". Those aphorisms are used in the context of code examples in which the virtue of applying them becomes very obvious. The evils of making code more efficient based on our intuition about what will be more efficient are illuminated — the authors recommend that optimization of code be performed only when the best algorithm is already being used, and only then when there is good reason to believe that the code is a bottleneck and needs to be optimized.

The examples in the book are in FORTRAN 66 and PL/I. The former is sufficiently similar to BASIC that someone who writes code in BASIC would have no difficulty following the examples in that language. PL/I is derived from ALGOL, as are both Pascal and C, and the control structures of all three are sufficiently similar to make users of any feel somewhat comfortable reading code in the others. Even assembly language programmers can get something useful from this book, despite the differences in available structures, because the benefit to be derived from reading the book does not depend on the programming languages used for the examples. It is even possible that FORTH users may get something out of the book, but I don't know.

The major message of the book is summed up by the following quotes from the epilogue: "One excuse for writing an unintelligible program is that it is a private matter. Only the original programmer will ever look at it, and surely he need not spell out everything when he has it all in his head", "clean code is easier to maintain", and "It (style) is not a list of rules so much as an approach and an attitude". I believe that all serious programmers should read this book.

* * * * * * *

SYSTEM NOTES

MicroPro Upgrade WordStar 3.3 & MailMerge 3.3 and an Install for Epson

by Jim Butchart

Thanks to a mention in the ***FOGHORN*** I made it to the West Coast Computer show in San Francisco this year. What a mad house! But I found refuge at (believe it or not) the Osborne booth. It was obvious that there were a number of people just like me crowding around in disbelief. Maybe the button is right! "Osborne is back". Actually to all of the Osborne Users milling around the booth, Osborne never left. Thanks to a users group that just gets better every day and manufactures that keep pumping out products to support the thousands of Osbornes in use. The people from DRIVE C were there along with reps from Trantor. Of course FOG was there in force. It was nice to associate some familiar names with faces I had never seen before.

One of the brochures I picked up was from MicroPro. They are offering the WordStar update that we read about months ago. (You have, by now [maybe], received this same brochure in the mail). Well I shelled out the $104 for both the WordStar and MailMerge updates (plus California Sales Tax). Maybe from the following comments you will be better able to decide if the update is worth it for you.

First of all the documentation is beautiful. One of the major drawbacks of the bundled software that came with my Osborne was that the documentation wasn't the greatest. When I got my Ozzie the print in the black three-ring binder was real squint material. I decided to read the new manual completely not only because of the new features but to pick up features I probably never learned.

One major consideration that comes to mind before updating WordStar is all the work you put in installing your present version. From all the articles in ***FOGHORN*** it has to be the number one problem for most users. Especially new users. Not to worry! One of the major changes in this version is the installation procedures. Well I am happy to report that the installation is menu driven and can be done in fairly short order. There is a menu of common printers and if yours is listed, most of the work will be done for you. Then instead of the DDT-type routine we had to deal with in the older version to customize WordStar features, you are presented another menu to toggle switches or specify defaults.

"Where's the beef?" you ask. The feature that I was after was the column block move function. This makes writing articles or putting a newsletter together a breeze. Another slick feature is that you can now have a right margin clear out to 240 columns and have the text on the screen as it will appear when it is printed instead of the confusing manner in which it used to be presented. For example if you have an 80 column printer and you would like to print in compressed mode to get 132 columns per line (like my Epson printer will allow) you can specify a right margin at 132. A '+' will appear at the flag field on the ruler line. As you type across the page and reach the flag field the screen will scroll automatically 20 columns at a time. (I have the 80 column upgrade so I haven't seen scrolling for awhile). I wasn't banking on this feature much but I will probably use it a lot now that I have seen it work.

Some other details on this version: You can have a file size up to 8 Meg if you are so inclined. They have also better organized the menus which should be more helpful to novices.

As far as the MailMerge update goes: You now have the ability to set up conditional branches to selectively print from a data file like a mailing list. I will use this feature a lot for the direct mailings I do to my customer list.

The only thing that is lacking so far is a patch for a blinking cursor and the automatic arrow key designation. Someone out there please take note! That is a neat patch.

Back in November, 1983 Jeff Lund contributed a useful article to modify WordStar for the Epson printer by defining print control characters to control Epson printing capabilities like italics, compressed pitch, wide pitch, and sub/superscripts. He also gave a modification to WSMSGS.OVR to put those changes on the print menu. I found t so useful that I have done it for version 3.3.

Here are the details:

WINSTALL <cr>. You will be taken through a series of questions which you shouldn't have any problems answering. As to the name WordStar will be saved as, I used B:WSN.COM to keep it unique from my existing WS.COM. You will then get to the installation menu. Reply **A** for a menu of printers. Reply **G** for the Epson. It says "no Graftrax". I have Graftrax ... but use it anyway.

At the main menu again reply **B** for custom installation of printers. At the printer installation menu reply **B** for automatic installation of standard printers. Enter your printer name.

Leave Printer initialization unchanged.
Leave Overprinting unchanged
Leave Boldfacing unchanged
Leave Return/Line feed unchanged

At the printer menu again, enter **I** for Ribbon Selection.

Enter **C** to change.
Enter **,1B**<cr>
,34<cr>
.<cr>

At the second ribbon change menu:
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B**<cr>
,35<cr>
.<cr>

At the printer menu enter **O** for user code options
#1. Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B**<cr>
,54<cr>
,1B<cr>
,48<cr>

#2.
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,0E**<cr>
.<cr>

#3.
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B**<cr>
,45<cr>
.<cr>

#4.
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B**<cr>
,46<cr>
.<cr>

Back to the printer menu:
Enter **P** for Carriage Roll
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B<cr>**
,53<cr>
,0<cr>
.<cr>

At the Roll down menu:
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,1B<cr>**
,53<cr>
,1<cr>
.<cr>

At the printer menu:
Enter **Q** for Character Pitch
Enter **C** to change alternate pitch
Enter **,0F<cr>**
.<cr>

At the standard pitch menu:
Enter **C** to change
Enter **,12<cr>**
.<cr>

At the printer menu:
Enter **X** to exit printer installation

At main menu:
Enter **C** for WordStar Features
Enter the defaults you want.
Enter **X** to Exit

And finally A to save the changes to WSN.COM (or whatever you named it).

Now to make the change to the Print Menu to show your new print codes:

Put the diskette with DDT.COM in drive A and WSMSGS.OVR in B. At the A> enter
DDT B:WSMSGS.OVR<cr>

Now this won't hurt one bit. If you have never used DDT this is a great exercise to get a little experience. This is how I learned.

You will see:

```
DDT VERS 2.2
NEXT  PC
7680 0100
-
```

The hyphen is the DDT prompt. Enter **S1C44 <cr>**, where S sets memory at location 1C44.

Your screen should look exactly like the example that follows. You enter the third column of numbers.

```
-S1C44(cr)
1C44   4F   49(cr)
1C45   74   74(cr)
1C46   68   61(cr)
1C47   65   6C(cr)
1C48   72   69(cr)
1C49   20   63(cr)
1C4A   72   73(cr)
1C4B   69   20(cr)
1C4C   62   62(cr)
1C4D   62   65(cr)
1C4E   6F   67(cr)
1C4F   6E   69(cr)
1C50   20   6E(cr)
1C51   63   2F(cr)
1C52   6F   65(cr)
1C53   6C   6E(cr)
1C54   6F   64(cr)
1C55   72   20(cr)
1C56   7C        (cr)
-S1B54(cr)
1B54   41   43(cr)
1B55   6C   6F(cr)
1B56   74   6D(cr)
1B57   65   70(cr)
1B58   72   72(cr)
1B59   6E   65(cr)
1B5A   61   73(cr)
1B5B   74   73(cr)
1B5C   65   65(cr)
1B5D   20   64(cr)
1B5E   70   20(cr)
1B5F   69   70(cr)
1B60   74   72(cr)
1B61   63   69(cr)
1B62   68   6E(cr)
1B63   20   74(cr)
1B64   20        (cr)
-S1C92(cr)
1C92   A0   57(cr)
1C93   AD   20(cr)
1C94   AD   57(cr)
1C95   D5   69(cr)
1C96   F3   64(cr)
1C97   E5   65(cr)
1C98   F2   20(cr)
1C99   A0   70(cr)
1C9A   A0   69(cr)
1C9B   D0   74(cr)
1C9C   E1   63(cr)
1C9D   F4   68(cr)
1C9E   E3   20(cr)
1C9F   E8   20(cr)
1CA0   E5   20(cr)
1CA1   F3   20(cr)
1CA2   AD   20(cr)
1CA3   AD   20(cr)
1CA4   A0   20(cr)
1CA5   20        (cr)
-S1C2D(cr)
1C2D   46   45(cr)
1C2E   20   20(cr)
1C2F   50   45(cr)
1C30   68   6D(cr)
1C31   61   70(cr)
1C32   6E   68(cr)
1C33   74   61(cr)
1C34   6F   73(cr)
1C35   6D   69(cr)
1C36   20   73(cr)
1C38   70   62(cr)
1C39   61   65(cr)
1C3A   63   67(cr)
1C3B   65   69(cr)
1C3C   20   6E(cr)
1C3D   20        (cr)
-S1C7D(cr)
1C7D   47   52(cr)
1C7E   20   20(cr)
1C7F   50   45(cr)
1C80   68   6D(cr)
1C81   61   70(cr)
1C82   6E   68(cr)
1C83   74   61(cr)
1C84   6F   73(cr)
1C85   6D   69(cr)
1C86   20   73(cr)
1C87   72   20(cr)
1C88   75   65(cr)
1C89   62   6E(cr)
1C8A   6F   64(cr)
1C8B   75   20(cr)
1C8C   74   20(cr)
1C8D   20        (cr)
-S1CCD(cr)
1CCD   52   51(cr)
1CCE   45   20(cr)
1CCF   54   53(cr)
1CD0   20   75(cr)
1CD1   4F   62(cr)
1CD2   76   2F(cr)
1CD3   65   73(cr)
1CD4   72   70(cr)
1CD5   70   72(cr)
1CD6   72   20(cr)
1CD7   69   73(cr)
1CD8   6E   63(cr)
1CD9   74   70(cr)
1CDA   20   74(cr)
1CDB   6C   20(cr)
1CDC   69   6F(cr)
1CDD   6E   66(cr)
1CDE   65   66(cr)
1CDF   20        (cr)
-S1CE2(cr)
1CE2   51   52(cr)
1CE3   28   45(cr)
1CE4   31   54(cr)
1CE5   29   20(cr)
1CE6   20   4F(cr)
1CE7   57   76(cr)
1CE8   28   65(cr)
1CE9   32   72(cr)
1CEA   29   70(cr)
1CEB   20   72(cr)
1CEC   45   69(cr)
1CED   28   6E(cr)
1CEE   33   73(cr)
1CEF   29   20(cr)
1CF0   20   6C(cr)
1CF1   52   69(cr)
1CF2   28   6E(cr)
1CF3   34   65(cr)
1CF4   29   20(cr)
1CF5   20   .(cr)
```

That's it! Now enter **^C** to end DDT. At the A> enter **SAVE 118 B:WSMSGS.OVR**.

What you have done with the last command was to save 118 pages of HEX memory in the file B:WSMSGS.OVR. To figure out how many pages to save for future tinkering... DDT tells you the NEXT available memory address. When we loaded DDT in this case we got a figure of 7680. Drop the last two digits which leaves you with 76. Next convert this number to HEX or base 16.

```
76 Decimal      6= 6 in 1's place
=               + 112= 7 in 16's place
118 Hex         118
```

* * * * * * *

Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
4th Su	June 24	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	CONFIRM	806-355-7509
	June 24	Pittsburgh, PA	50-TROG	2:30pm	Mellon Science Building, Duquesne Univ.	412-456-3946
4th M	June 25	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	6:30pm	CONFIRM	415-892-2713
	June 25	Davenport, IA	102-QCOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	319-386-3484
4th Tu	June 26	Wichita, KS	21-OPEK	7:30pm	St. Paul's Methodist Church, 13th & Broadway	316-945-8389
	June 26	Greenville, SC	41-POGO	6:30pm	C. Douglas Wilson, 201 E. North Street	803-233-3434
	June 26	St. Louis, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Thornhill Library, 12863 Willowyck	314-862-6239
4th W	June 27	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-792-7959
	June 27	Portland, OR	57-PMS	7:00pm	Bonneville Power Admin. Aud.	503-642-9692
	June 27	Athens, GA	81-COG	7:30pm	Athens Federal Savings, Barnett Shoals Road	404-353-2127
4th Th	June 28	San Francisco, CA	2-SF FOG	7:00pm	St. Aidan's Church, Goldmine & Diamond Hgts.	415-334-2851
Th	June 28	Lancaster, PA	74-LOG	7:30pm	Fire Protection Sys, 1873 Lincoln Hwy East	717-898-8929
alter Th	June 28	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	June 28	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
last Su	June 24	River Grove, IL	80-CFOG	1:00pm	Liberal Arts Bldg, Triton College	312-654-0986
last Tu	June 26	Santa Barbara, CA	69-OSBUG	7:30pm	SB Planning Rm, 105 E. Anapamu St	805-687-8541
	June 26	Kansas City, KS	97-MIZOG	7:00pm	TWA Bldg, 13th & Baltimore	816-455-2824
last W	June 27	Richland, WA	19-TROG	7:00pm	1776 Fowler	509-375-3258
????		, CA	65-ENROBSO		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	408-458-9047
????		Sierra Madre, CA	66-SMOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	818-355-8825
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cont. from page 22

$509 back in August and can be had for less than that.

In contrast, the cost of a good auto-dial, direct connect 300 baud modem will cost considerably less — around $170 to $250.

IN SUMMARY

If the price tag of the 1200 baud modems doesn't scare you away first, examine what you're going to be using the higher speed modem for. 1) If it's mainly downloading files, then a 1200 baud modem will probably be invaluable for you and will pay for itself fairly quickly. 2) However, if all you do is trade short messages, electronic mail, and on-screen information, then the 1200 baud modem is going to be a buy that you might not need to make. 3) If you do a combination of the two typical uses of modems, don't worry about trying to read messages on your 1200 baud modem. It operates at 300 baud, too. This is also useful for the RCPMs that haven't yet gone to 1200 baud. When they do, though, you'll be ready for them.

* * * * * * *

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BOOK REVIEWS

"The Elements of Programming Style" May Make Your Coding Time More Worthwhile

by Chris Hill

Most of us who program computers have learned about programming largely by poking around with the machine, trying this and that. If we have read anything about programming techniques, it was probably written by an academic who preached at us about the necessity of starting with a flowchart. In *The Elements of Programming Style*, Brian Kernighan and P. J. Plauger (McGraw-Hill, 2nd ed., 1978) have put together a fascinating and amusing book about how you can avoid common pitfalls and blunders in programming thereby using your time more effectively and making programming more enjoyable.

The Elements of Programming Style takes its examples of bad programming right out of university textbooks on programming! Most of the programs used as examples have out-and-out bugs, and all of them have blunders of style that inhibit readability or efficiency. The authors rewrite the "bad" code so that it is usually more compact, always more readable, and at least as efficient in terms of execution speed. They use aphorisms like "use data arrays to avoid repetitive control sequences", "make input easy to prepare and output self-explanatory", and "make sure your code 'does nothing' gracefully". Those aphorisms are used in the context of code examples in which the virtue of applying them becomes very obvious. The evils of making code more efficient based on our intuition about what will be more efficient are illuminated — the authors recommend that optimization of code be performed only when the best algorithm is already being used, and only then when there is good reason to believe that the code is a bottleneck and needs to be optimized.

The examples in the book are in FORTRAN 66 and PL/I. The former is sufficiently similar to BASIC that someone who writes code in BASIC would have no difficulty following the examples in that language. PL/I is derived from ALGOL, as are both Pascal and C, and the control structures of all three are sufficiently similar to make users of any feel somewhat comfortable reading code in the others. Even assembly language programmers can get something useful from this book, despite the differences in available structures, because the benefit to be derived from reading the book does not depend on the programming languages used for the examples. It is even possible that FORTH users may get something out of the book, but I don't know.

The major message of the book is summed up by the following quotes from the epilogue: "One excuse for writing an unintelligible program is that it is a private matter. Only the original programmer will ever look at it, and surely he need not spell out everything when he has it all in his head", "clean code is easier to maintain", and "It (style) is not a list of rules so much as an approach and an attitude". I believe that all serious programmers should read this book.

* * * * * * *

How to Make Your RADIO SHACK TRS-80 Model 100 Talk to Your Osborne 01

by Bill Boyer

I bought my Osborne 01 for its portability, software, and price. I soon discovered that lugging the Osborne, the dot matrix printer, my briefcase and suitcase around the airport parking lot was hazardous to my health. While I have used my Ozzie extensively in my work, it has not been as easy to move around as I first had hoped. When the Radio Shack TRS-80 model 100 came out I began to think about how convenient it would be to develop first draft written text in the field on the model 100 then transmit the data to my Osborne when I return to the office. Then with WordStar I could put the report in final form. I made the plunge and bought a 24k model 100. I am not a communications technician nor do I have a modem for my Osborne. After many days of trial and error and help from friends I have arrived at a method of capturing data from the model 100 to the Osborne via the RS232 port. This may not be an elegant solution, but it works for me. Therefore, I thought I'd share it with my orphaned brothers and sisters in FOG.

1. Prepare both units for communication.

A. Model 100

1. In telcom mode set STAT to 58n2e,10
2. In telcom mode press TERM, then upload, then enter the filename.DO to be transmitted, then enter width of 40, but do not press return yet!
3. Connect the RS232 cable to the model 100 and to the RS232 plug on the Osborne (I did not need a null modem adapter as stated in the model 100 manual).

B. Osborne 01

1. Obtain MDM70S, a program contained on the FOG Library utility disk #005.
2. Execute MDM70S, then enter TR.1200 filename.filetype. This puts the OS1 in terminal mode at 1200 baud to receive and save a file in memory while displaying the contents on the screen.
3. Now enter ^C, this must be done to permit the contents of memory to be stored on disk.
4. Now press return on the model 100. At this time the data is transmitted to the Osborne. You should see the data flashing across your screen. If you don't there is a problem somewhere.
5. When the data has all been transmitted (reverse "UP" on the model 100 returns to normal) enter ^E on the Osborne. This terminates communication and presents the menu. Now enter WRT and return. This causes the data stored in memory to be transferred to disk using the filename you specified to MDM70S. This function will not properly store the data if ^C was not entered at the proper time mentioned above.

II. Editing the file.

Now edit your file using WordStar. You must now remove some bad carriage return characters from eachline. These characters will cause your text to overprint when you output to your printer. To get rid of these characters I did the following:

1) use ^QA from the beginning of the file.
2) respond to FIND? with ^P and return twice (nothing shows on the monitor, so don't worry)
3) respond to REPLACE WITH? with ^M or ^N (again, nothing shows on the monitor)
4) respond to OPTION? with GN (this will automatically wipe out the gremlins at the end of each print line which cause the overprinting problem.

Well, that's it. It may not be elegant, but it works and requires no BASIC programming. I'd like to hear of any improvements to same, so let's all communicate through FOG to help each other.

* * * * * * *

UNDELETE Key for WordStar

by Benjamin H. Cohen

Who hasn't wanted an "undelete" key for WordStar? There must be some time when you hit the big ^K^Y and suddenly realized that the block ended three lines past the spot where you wanted the deletion to end. No, I don't have a magic key on my Ozzie that gets back the word, line, or block that I last deleted, but I've set up the next best thing using Smartkey II — you can do it with Ozzy's special function keys but eventually you run out of things you can do with the limited capacity for SFK's.

The trick is not to delete the block at all. Instead of deleting the block, you write it to a disk file — I call that file "undelete". When you want to "undelete" the last block delete, you simply read the file "undelete" back into the file you are editing.

So, set up your special function "delete" key that does the following:

^K^K^K^Wa:undelete<cr>Y^K^Y

Note that I have put the "undelete" file on the A: drive. When you use ^K^W if there is already a file of the name you select you are asked whether you want to overwrite the existing file. In order to use the same sequence all the time the file to which you are writing must already exist or you will get a letter "y" and a <cr> written into the file. Since you won't remember to create an "undelete" file for every disk that might be put in the B: drive and won't want a whole batch of files called "undelete" cluttering up your disks, simply having one "undelete" file on the A: drive will suffice.

Before you use the "delete" key, be sure to create an "undelete" file on your WordStar disk.

To use the "delete" key mark the beginning of the block with ^K^B in the usual manner, put the curso r at the end of the block. Hit the "delete" key. The "delete" key will write the block to the file undelete (overwriting the existing file by that name), and then delete the block from the working file — all with one keystroke.

Now you need your "undelete" key. That one does this:

^K^Ra:undelete<cr>

You may wish to call the file by some one character name rather than "undelete" if you are using the Osborne SFK's since the number of characters available is severely limited. If you are using Smartkey II or some other keyboard configuration program you may want to use the more descriptive name so you know what the file is.

I leave it to you to decide whether the extra time that it takes to use the special function key to write the file in place of a simple ^K^Y is worth the advantage of being able to undelete that lost block. Perhaps the answer is that if you are using DRIVE C: or a hard disk the operation is so fast it's not an issue.

* * * * * * *

Off Screen, Blinking Cursor Fix

by Phil Pflager

I have a solution to the screen orientation problem Bob Hamilton mentioned in his article in the March ***FOGHORN***. Certain commands which cause the screen to scroll, will leave the blinking cursor off screen until another key is pressed. This can be very annoying and is contrary to the idea of having a blinking cursor in the first place.

After you modify WSPATCH.ASM for double density as Bob suggests, insert the following call in the "cursor blink routine" between "PUSH H" and "TIMSET LXI D,0000H".

```
                CALL 0E7F6H
```

you will end up with:

```
                PUSH H
                CALL 0E7F6H
TIMSET          LXI D,0000H
```

(this should also work for single density unmodified WSPATCH except the call will have to be to EA0FH instead of E7F6H. I have no way to test this, however because I don't have access to a single density machine.)

The routine located at EF76H causes the screen to reposition itself so that the blinking cursor will always be visible. The only problem I've had with this modification is when there are two blinking cursors it sometimes chooses to display the wrong one. This may happen while using the find and replace command, ^QA, and the blinking cursor under Y/N ends up on the screen.

The above addition should work properly if you successfully modified WSPATCH and have a working blinking cursor WordStar. I had trouble getting WSPATCH to work on my system by just changing the BIOS entry location! My cursor blinks all right but there seemed to be other problems. It appeared to me that WSPATCH overwrote an area that was essential to the proper operation of my WordStar. I might have done something wrong the first time I tried it last December. I followed Bob's instructions this time and it seemed to work OK. Anyway right or wrong, my solution was to relocate the cursor blink routine etc. to a protected area of memory between BIOS and screen memory. This requires me to use "MOVCPM 58 *" to create a 1K protected area. (The original double density CP/M system is 59K not 60K as stated in the manual.) I set up all my disks with a 58K system anyway so this was not a problem for me.

In December I modified WSPATCH and submitted a DOC, ASM, and COM file to the FOG library under the name WSPTCHDD. Whem I read the JANUARY ***FOGHORN*** I found that Bob Whitaker had used the same name for his version of double density WSPATCH he submitted about a month before me. I hope there isn't any confusion over this because my version will not work correctly on a disk with a normal 59K system.

I have been using the blinking cursor for several months and find it very useful while editing. I had to make one change to the original program when I bought the J.G. COMMUNICATIONS clock because the blink routine and the clock routine overwrote each other. I was able to change one address in the WSPTCHDD.ASM file to cause the blink routine to move higher and away from the clock routine. I used relative addresses when I wrote the program so it is easy to relocate things and change system size.

* * * * * * * *

SAFETY HAZARD OSBORNE 1, TAN CASE MODEL

by Randy Shafer

While installing a cooling fan recently, I noticed an omission on the tan case Osborne that startled me. No fuse was placed on the power line side of the power switch. This is a serious safety defect. Any short in the switch could cause an electrical fire, especially in older homes that are not protected with circuit breakers. In areas that have thunderstorm activity in the summer, it is not uncommon for lightning to fuse or short power switches, making the tan case model even more dangerous.

For safety's sake, I recommend the following:

* Always unplug your tan case Osborne when not using it.
* Install, or have installed, a fuse before the power switch. A simple panel-mount or in-line fuse holder can be purchased at Radio Shack or an electronic supply house, and installation can be made with common household tools.
* A plug box with a fuse or circuit breaker will offer some protection and utility at the same time, for both the computer and peripherals.

This is the type of defect that is removed when a unit is submitted for U.L. approval. Unfortunately, as far as I know, the tan case model was never U.L. approved. In any case, be careful, and have some safe and happy computing!

* * * * * * * *

Another DDT Hint

by Jim Nelden

I've seen all the articles about finding the number of pages to save after using DDT. The last one by Brian Rau in December's FOGHORN has finally triggered my writing this article.

As Brian shows, one way to calculate the number of pages of memory to SAVE is to use the NEXT hexidecimal (hex) figure provided when DDT is invoked. I don't know about everybody else, but I don't think in hex. The easy way to determine the memory pages is to use STAT and the easiest way to illustrate this is with an example:

```
A> STAT B:EXAMPLE.COM
```

Which will produce something like:

```
Rec  Bytes  Ext  Acc
123   16k    1   R/W  B:EXAMPLE.COM
A>
```

With the number (in decimal) under REC (records), 123, we calculate the number of pages by dividing by two, yielding 61.5, and rounding up to 62. This is the minimum number of pages to SAVE after modifying EXAMPLE.COM with DDT. Now, isn't that easier than all that hex conversion and finger/knuckle counting?

Now you can enter **DDT B:EXAMPLE.COM** and make your changes normally. After exiting DDT with ^C or GO, **SAVE 62 B:EXAMPLE.COM**.

Warning: My method as well as Brian's is only for files that you are not adding to with DDT. If you know how to enlarge files with DDT, then you don't need my help in figuring out how many pages to save.

Jim Nelden is a FOG member from Normal, Illinois, where there is no local FOG organization. Yes there really is a town named Normal. Jim is treasurer for the Central Illinois Section of IEEE.

* * * * * * * *

Some Documentation for NSWEEP

Author Unknown, from FOG RCPM

NSWEEP.COM Version 1.99 by Dave Rand of Edmonton, Alberta is a real gem of a utility. Although the program is menu-driven and largely self-documented, the FOG library version lacks complete documentation of all the features. Those used to WASH.COM and SWEEP.COM will be familar with much of NSWEEP, but there are some new (and useful) twists. Here are some extended explanations and features that I have been able to figure out. Some things I haven't deciphered yet (especially options Y and Q) and I suspect that there may be additional goodies yet undiscovered. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows anything more about the program or has a copy of Dave Rand's original documentation. Meanwhile, thanks to Dave Rand for a very useful program.

Current file refers to the file on the command line.

A — Retags files after an action is taken is taken. For example: after using option M to transfer all tagged files the transfered files are left untagged but marked with a #, to retag them for an additional action hit A.
B — Backs up the list one file.
C — Copy file. NSWEEP prompt asks for drive/user. Adding a .V to drive/user will do a CRC verification of transfer.
D — Delete current file. A second prompt will follow to make sure.
E — Erase files. First prompt asks if you want to erase tagged or untagged. Second prompt asks if you want to decide on every file separately. A option at this stage aborts the erase command.
F — Find a file.
L — Log onto a new drive/user.
M — Mass copy of all tagged files. Prompts and verification option as in C.
Q — I have not been able to get this option to work.

R — Rename file(s). Allows renaming of current file or using CP/M wildcards (*,?) to rename a number of files. For example to rename oldname.asm, oldname.doc oldname.txt respond to first prompt with an * then enter newname.*.
S — Space remaining on disk.
T — Tag current file for mass transfer (M) or erase (E). Tagged files are marked with a *.
U — Untag current file.
V — View file at console. Displays file at console one page at a time. For WordStar document files bit 8 is striped (as when using the [z] option in PIP) for display purposes. Very handy, but I've had an occasional problem with the page display on some files.
W — Wildcard tag of files. Tags files using CP/M wildcard identifiers (*,?).
Y — Set file status. I haven't figured this one out completely yet. I don't know what options 1-4 are.

[*I'd like to second the thanks to Dave Rand (as I have before). NSWEEP is my favorite program, especially at only 7K (DD)! It makes my job so much easier. The author of this article is right about the "Q" (Squeeze) command — it doesn't work. But, I just received Ver. 2.05 (11K on DD) that is supposed to have everything working. By the way, at least on my Ver. 1.90, you don't need the "." (dot) preceding the "V", verify command. I have always used a space, but recently found that it isn't necessary. David*]

* * * * * * *

Installing WordStar by Using a Special Function Key

by Benjamin H. Cohen

From time to time you may want to do some patching in your copy of WordStar, to get it to come up the way you want it rather than the way someone at MicroPro decided it should come up. To get to the patching area you have to answer a long batch of questions, some of the answers to which are confusing when you haven't seen the list for a while, so it's nice to be able to "automate" the process with a special function key. But, sometimes when you program SFK's for things like this sequence, you run into timing problems — somewhere in the middle a character or two gets "gobbled up" and disappears, throwing the sequence out of synchronization. The following sequence has a few spaces in it to delay the following characters just long enough to get the system in synchronization — at least on my Oz. Some CFOG members have told me that this sequence works, and others say it doesn't on their machines. If it doesn't work, watch the operation to see where it hangs up, and try adjusting the spacing to get it to work.

Take a blank disk, format it, sysgen it, put INSTALL.COM on it, and set up one of your special function keys with the following sequence:

```
install(cr)(space)
(space)nbb:(filename1)(cr)b:(filename2)(cr)uyuyuy (space)uyn
```

The <cr> means a carriage return, <space> means you hit the space bar, and <filename1> means the name — the extension is not required — of the WordStar file you want to work on and <filename2> means the name of the WordStar file you want to wind up with. Since you probably have WordStar in a file named WS.COM, the line will probably read:

```
install(cr) (space) (space)nbb:WS(cr)b:WS(cr)uyuyuy (space)uyn
```

Now, when you want to patch your WS.COM file, simply put this special disk on the A: drive, put your WordStar disk on the B: drive, and hit the special function key. Now you enter the location of the patch you want to use and the new value. When you are through patching, enter a "zero", <cr>, and "y", to complete the installation.

There are files in the FOG library with information about WordStar patch points.

* * * * * * * *

dBASE II

Graphics Display with dBASEII, Part 2

by Tim Snyder

This is the second of two articles about using dBase II and block graphics characters on the Osborne 1.

Last month we looked at how to put graphics characters on the screen using dBase II. We used the brute force method with the @ xx,yy SAY command and CHR(arg) function. On the screen we displayed a cross reference between the decimal ASCII equivalent numbers and the corresponding character graphics. We discovered that the set of characters from 0 to 31 is repeated from 96 to 127, with two exceptions. The character for 96 is different from the one for 0 and similarly, 123 is different from 27.

We used the CHR() function to convert a decimal number to a code that could be displayed. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just type in a key when writing a program and not have to use the CHR() function? Well, you can with one exception. In the last article I said that Osborne forgot to include a table of ASCII equivalents. At the end of this article you will find such a table which crosses the ASCII code to its decimal equivalent, hexadecimal equivalent, and the key on the Osborne that produces it. Note that most of the codes from 0 to 31 are Control codes and that the Osborne keyboard won't produce three of them. Putting control codes into text files is difficult because both WordStar and dBase II interpret the codes and use them for other purposes.

Look farther down the list and notice that the codes from 96 to 127 are mostly lower case letters and some symbols that are a combination of the Control key and a symbol key, all of which will display. The one exception is 127, which has no key. The graphic character for this code is the same as the one for 31. There is a key for that one, CTRL-minus, but you immediately recognize that as the delete-to-the-left-of-the-cursor key in WordStar. (You should be using WordStar Non-Document mode for writing your programs because the dBase II editor is unpredictable.) You will have to use the CHR() function for the 31/127 symbol if you want to use it.

Use the little program from last month. We used CHR(22) to display a block. The same block is represented by the character,v (lower case v) when in graphics mode. Reconstruct the program as follows:

```
* GRAPHICS.CMD Demonstration of block graphics on the O-1.
SET TALK OFF
SET INTENSITY OFF
*
* We want to see the characters in full intensity.
*
ERASE
*
* Clear the screen
*
STORE CHR(27) + 'g' TO GR
*
* CHR(27) is ESCAPE, GR is the variable that will start graphics.
*
STORE CHR(27) + 'G' TO NOGR
*
```

```
* NOGR is the variable that will stop graphics.
* Now let's do it
*
@ 10,15 SAY GR
*
* Start graphics
*
@ 10,16 SAY 'v'
@ 10,18 SAY 'v'
*
* The graphic that corresponds to v is a vertical block that fills one
character space on the screen.
*
*
@ 10,19 SAY NOGR
*
* Turn off graphics mode.
```

DO the program and try it. It should be just like last month's version. Now how about a cross-reference to the characters and their corresponding keys. Lets re-do last month's cross-reference program to show the keys as well as the ASCII codes.

```
* GRINDEX1.CMD Simplified Graphics Cross- Reference
SET TALK OFF
SET INTE OFF
STOR CHR(27)+'g' TO GR
STOR CHR(27)+'G' TO NOGR
*
* w is the character for the line at the top.
* a is the character for the line down the right side.
* d is the character for the line down the left side.
* x is the character for the line across the bottom.
*
ERAS
@ 0,0 SAY GR
@ 1,0 SAY 'dwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwwa'
STOR 2 TO I
DO WHIL I < 23
@ I,0 SAY 'd'
@ I,51 SAY 'a'
STOR 1 + I TO I
ENDD
@ I,0 SAY 'dxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxa'
@ 24,0 SAY NOGR
STOR 5 TO I
STOR 2 TO J
STOR 96 TO K
STOR 1 TO M
*
* I keeps track of the line number
* J keeps track of the column number
* K is the character number
* M keeps track of the row number
*
@ 2,8 SAY 'Osborne 1 Graphics Cross-Reference'
@ 3,8 SAY ' Decimal / Graphic / Osborne Key'
DO WHIL J < 45
DO WHIL M < 10
@ I,J SAY K USING '999'
@ I,J+4 SAY GR+CHR(K)+NOGR
@ I,J+6 SAY CHR(K)
IF K=96
@ I,J+8 SAY '(^+)'
ENDI
*
* Control-Plus is the key for Accent Grave
*
IF K=123
@ I,J+8 SAY '(^<)'
ENDI
*
* Control-Less Than is the key for Opening Brace
*
IF K=125
@ I,J+8 SAY '(^>)'
ENDI
*
* Control-Greater Than is the key for Closing Brace
*
IF K=126
@ I,J+8 SAY '(^?)'
ENDI
*
* Control-Question is the key for Tilde
*
IF K=127
@ I,J+6 SAY '(None)'
ENDI
STOR 2+I TO I
STOR 1+K TO K
STOR 1+M TO M
*
* Are we finished with the characters from 96-127?
* If so, stop the routine
*
IF K=128
STOR 11 TO M
STOR 45 TO J
ENDI
ENDD
STOR 5 TO I
STOR 12+J TO J
STOR 1 TO M
ENDD
@ 24,0 SAY NOGR
```

Well there you have the simplified way of putting graphics on the screen with dBase II. There are a couple of cautions. Try changing the SET INTE OFF to SET INTE ON in the program above. You will notice the graphics don't come out the same in half intensity. You have to use the CHR() function with numbers from 0 to 31, if you want half intensity character graphics. The second caution is this: you are probably thinking about setting the format to print and trying to print the characters on your printer. Remember that these are graphics characters generated by the character generator ROM for display on the screen. Unless you have a graphics printer and the knowledge to modify the program to get the printer to print exactly what is on the screen, you won't get the same results.

Next month let's look at using dBase II to do a screen dump of printable characters.

ASCII Character Codes

ASCII CODE	DEC	HEX	KEY	MEANING
NULL	0	00	NONE	Null or time fill
SOH	1	01	^A	Start of heading
STX	2	02	^B	Start of text
ETX	3	03	^C	End of text
EOT	4	04	^D	End of transmission
ENQ	5	05	^E	Enquiry (who are you)
ACK	6	06	^F	Acknowledge
BEL	7	07	^G	Bell
BS	8	08	^H	Backspace
HT	9	09	^I	Horizontal tabulation

LF	10	0A	^J	Line feed
VT	11	0B	^K	Vertical tabulation
FF	12	0C	^L	Form feed
CR	13	0D	^M or RETN	Carriage return
SO	14	0E	^N	Shift out
SI	15	0F	^O	Shift in
DLE	16	10	^P	Data link escape
DC1	17	11	^Q	Device Control 1
DC2	18	12	^R	Device Control 2
DC3	19	13	^S	Device Control 3
DC4	20	14	^T	Device Control 4
NAK	21	15	^U	Negative Acknowledge
SYN	22	16	^V	Synchronous Idle
ETB	23	17	^W	End of Transmission Blocks
CAN	24	18	^X	Cancel
EM	25	19	^Y	End of medium
SS	26	1A	^Z	Special sequence
ESC	27	1B	ESC	Escape
FS	28	1C	^\	File separator
GS	29	1D	NONE	Group separator
RS	30	1E	NONE	Record separator
US	31	1F	^I	Unit separator
SP	32	20	SPACE BAR	Space
!	33	21	!	Exclamation point
"	34	22	"	Quotation mark
#	35	23	#	Number sign
$	36	24	$	Currency Symbol
%	37	25	%	Percent
&	38	26	&	Ampersand
'	39	27	'	Apostrophe
(	40	28	(	Opening parenthesis
)	41	29	)	Closing parenthesis
*	42	2A	*	Asterisk
+	43	2B	+	Plus
,	44	2C	,	Comma
-	45	2D	-	Hyphen or Minus
.	46	2E	.	Period
/	47	2F	/	Slant
0	48	30	0	Zero
1	49	31	1	One
2	50	32	2	Two
3	51	33	3	Three
4	52	34	4	Four
5	53	35	5	Five
6	54	36	6	Six
7	55	37	7	Seven
8	56	38	8	Eight
9	57	39	9	Nine
:	58	3A	:	Colon
;	59	3B	;	Semicolon
<	60	3C	<	Less Than
=	61	3D	=	Equal
>	62	3E	>	Greater Than
?	63	3F	?	Question Mark
@	64	40	@	Commercial At
A	65	41	A	Upper Case A
B	66	42	B	Upper Case B
C	67	43	C	Upper Case C
D	68	44	D	Upper Case D
E	69	45	E	Upper Case E
F	70	46	F	Upper Case F
G	71	47	G	Upper Case G
H	72	48	H	Upper Case H
I	73	49	I	Upper Case I
J	74	4A	J	Upper Case J
K	75	4B	K	Upper Case K
L	76	4C	L	Upper Case L
M	77	4D	M	Upper Case M
N	78	4E	N	Upper Case N
O	79	4F	O	Upper Case O
P	80	50	P	Upper Case P
Q	81	51	Q	Upper Case Q
R	82	52	R	Upper Case R
S	83	53	S	Upper Case S
T	84	54	T	Upper Case T
U	85	55	U	Upper Case U
V	86	56	V	Upper Case V
W	87	57	W	Upper Case W
X	88	58	X	Upper Case X
Y	89	59	Y	Upper Case Y
Z	90	5A	Z	Upper Case Z
[	91	5B		Opening Bracket
\	92	5C		Reverse Slant
]	93	5D	]	Closing Bracket
^	94	5E		Circumflex
_	95	5F	_	Underline
`	96	60	^+	Grave Accent
a	97	61	a	Lower Case a
b	98	62	b	Lower Case b
c	99	63	c	Lower Case c
d	100	64	d	Lower Case d
e	101	65	e	Lower Case e
f	102	66	f	Lower Case f
g	103	67	g	Lower Case g
h	104	68	h	Lower Case h
i	105	69	i	Lower Case i
j	106	6A	j	Lower Case j
k	107	6B	k	Lower Case k
l	108	6C	l	Lower Case l
m	109	6D	m	Lower Case m
n	110	6E	n	Lower Case n
o	111	6F	o	Lower Case o
p	112	70	p	Lower Case p
q	113	71	q	Lower Case q
r	114	72	r	Lower Case r
s	115	73	s	Lower Case s
t	116	74	t	Lower Case t
u	117	75	u	Lower Case u
v	118	76	v	Lower Case v
w	119	77	w	Lower Case w
x	120	78	x	Lower Case x
y	121	79	y	Lower Case y
z	122	7A	z	Lower Case z
{	123	7B	^(	Opening Brace
|	124	7C	|	Vertical Line
}	125	7D	^)	Closing Brace
~	126	7E	^?	Tilde
DEL		7F	NONE	Delete

* * * * * * *

Quicksaving Supercalc²

One of the many enhancements that SuperCalc² gives the spreadsheet user is that hitting the escape key enters the name of the last file loaded.

Since one of the most common functions is saving the last file loaded (you ought to do it frequently to be sure you don't lose data), you may want to program a special-function key as a "save" key. The save key on my SC2 disks runs this sequence: /S<ESC>oa. Avoiding the necessity of typing in the file name and drive specifier speeds up the saving process considerably.

Note that the save key saves the last file loaded. If you are creating a new spreadsheet, enter the title in cell A1, save it, zap the screen, and load it. Then all future saves will automatically go to the right file (rather than overwriting the last file you had used).

Benjamin H. Cohen

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FOG MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

Osborne 1 Disk Library News

by Jim Woolley

DSKLABL1 was mistakenly duplicated on FOG/UTL.038; it already exists on FOG/UTL.034. With over 2,000 files on more than 160 disks, it's becoming hard to keep track.

Tim Fox submitted JRT Pascal version 3.0, which is the version documented in FOG/LNG.014 thru 016. However, version 3.0 already exists in the Executive Library on FOG/EX1.008 and 009. Those disks are double density, but anyone wishing to use the language should probably have DD anyway. Therefore, version 3.0 will not be installed in the Osborne 1 Library; instead, it may be accessed from the Executive Library.

Henry Williams of Lugoff, SC, notes an error in the DISK.DOC file for FOG/APP.029. Instructions for WSPTCHDD had the drives reversed and did not include specification of WS.COM on the command line. They should read:

Place WSPTCHDD.COM in drive A and a copy of
WS.COM in drive B. At the A> prompt, type
WSPTCHDD B:WS.COM

Henry recommends a blink rate of 5.

There were no new disks introduced in April.

Disks introduced during May included FOG/GAM.017, FOG/UTL.040, FOG/APP.045 thru 047, and FOG/HAK.017. Following is a synopsis of DISK.DOC files from each of these new library disks:

FOG/GAM.017

CRAPS is a graphics version of the dice game contributed by Jim Hennessy. Also, see CRAPS on FOG/GAM.006 and 009.

SMURF is a modified version of MONSTER found on FOG/GAM.012 and on pp. 37 thru 44 of the June/July 1982 issue of Portable Companion. This one is perhaps better suited for young children. It was received from Detroit's DeFOG.

The following files were submitted by Wally Matthews of Pomona, CA.

BACCRRT is a modified version of the same program found on FOG/GAM.003. It is a baccarat game.

CROSSPUZ will prepare a word search puzzle using words you supply.

The following files were received from Steven Dyk of Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

BATTLSHP requires sinking ships hidden in a square matrix by targeting one square after another.

CAPITALS tests knowledge of state capitals.

DARTS requires hitting a target on the screen.

MATH is an arithmetic drill.

NUMBERSQ is similar to the game of moving tiles within a square matrix containing one missing tile until all tiles are in sequence.

PIGLATIN will translate input phrases into pig latin.

SMART is played against the computer, which predicts your T/F input.

TRANSLAT will translate input words into Cheyenne.

VOCAB permits one to create a series of flashcards for testing purposes. This version is set up for English to Crow translation.

These are MBASIC programs.

BRIDGE, submitted by Doug Cox, is a bridge card game played against yourself. It was written using Turbo Pascal.

This disk was first introduced into the library in preliminary form as FOG/GAM.XXX. It is now complete.

FOG/UTL.040

WID, contributed by Claude Ostyn of Sitka, Alaska, is for use with the Screen-Pac 80 column upgrade. It permits changing screen width and toggling automatic horizontal scrolling. Also, see TO found on FOG/UTL.033.

MSA15 is a COM file disassembler, producing 8080 mnemonics. MSA is the reverse of ASM, the CP/M 8080 assembler. Also, see DISASSEM and RESOURCE on FOG/UTL.007.

The following files were sent by Steven Dyk of Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

FLAGS permits one to set or reset flags for a file on the disk. A flag is set by turning on the high bit of a character in the 8 character filename (flags f1 thru f8) or the three character filetype (flags R/O, SYS, and t3). R/O and SYS are the familiar read-only and system attributes managed by the CP/M utility STAT. Flag t3 is sometimes used as an archive attribute. When a flag is set, DIR will display the filename with the flagged character underlined. NSWEEP, found on FOG/UTL.031, may be used to set/reset flags by its Y command.

MAKEAUTO will build an AUTOST.COM file containing a user specified CP/M command line and associated screen message to be executed automatically each time a cold boot (RESET-RETURN) is performed. MAKAUTO2 provides the same function, but adds the FAST feature to speed up MPI disk drives whenever the AUTOST program is run.

STATUS displays the status of various CP/M system parameters. Also, see CPMADR and CPMCALC found on FOG/UTL.019.

Thanks to Bryan Stallard for categorizing the remaining files.

OSDISK76 is a generalized file maintenance utility similar to sweep found on FOG/UTL.005 and 013, NSWEEP on FOG/UTL.031, and DISK72 on FOG/UTL.037. It is smaller than but nearly as versatile as NSWEEP.

The following files were received from Jack Brown of the Vancouver Portable Computer Club.

FORMAT.DOC describes a collection of programs permitting a double-density Osborne 1 to format single-sided disks for several different computers. These are:

CFORMAT IBM-PC CP/M 86
DFORMAT DEC VT180 DD
KFORMAT Kaypro DD
OFORMAT Osborne SD or DD

We have only been able to perform limited testing on these programs. XFORMAT for Xerox 820 SD did not perform correctly; therefore, it was placed on FOG/HAK.017.

OSTOKPRO will enable a double-density Osborne 1 to work with a double-density Kaypro disk, which contains 195K with 191K usable. We have only been able to perform limited testing.

PCPIP will permit a double-density Osborne to read and write an IBM-PC PCDOS or MSDOS formatted disk. This program was tested satisfactorily.

FOG/APP.045

READINV, READVEND, SUBS1, WRITEINV, and WRITEVND.BAS complete the Osborne/McGraw-Hill Accounts Payable initiated on FOG/APP.042 thru 044.

ENVELOP, received from Chris Hill, will enable your keyboard/printer combination to be used as a normal typewriter, almost. This is similar to TYPER found on FOG/UTL.008, except that the usual CP/M editing keys (backspace or left arrow or <CTRL-H>, <CTRL-X>, etc.) may be utilized before sending each line to the printer (by pressing <RETURN>). Perhaps this belongs in the Utilities category, but it is included here because of its relationship with word processing.

FFT, submitted by Bob Briggs, will perform the fast fourier transform calculation on a set of data points. There is a sample set of data representing a step function already included. Refer to Byte magazine, December 1978, for further information. Also, see FFT.BAS on FOG/APP.009.

The following files were received from Bob Hamilton of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

FINANAL is a SuperCalc template for various financial analyses including compound interest, future value, present value of a tax deduction, net present value of an investment, and rate of depreciation.

STMTRATO is a SuperCalc template for corporate financial statement ratio analysis. Also, see RATIOS on FOG/APP.009.

EMF is a multi-purpose dBASE II invoice, inventory, and purchase order processing application designed to serve the needs of a small publishing business. This disk contains the three CMD files MENU, MENU2, and POMENU. The remainder of the application may be found on FOG/APP.046. MPRINT is a MailMerge command file to print all related CMD and FRM files. Thanks to Bryan Stallard for categorizing the EMF system for the FOG library.

This disk was first introduced into the library in preliminary form as FOG/APP.XXX. It is now complete.

FOG/APP.046

Steven Dyk of Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan, submitted the loan amortization program LOAN and the STATS1 program, which calculates mean, variance, and standard deviation statistics for a set of input data. These are MBASIC programs. For similar applications, see FOG/APP.004, 005, 009, 015, 016, and 030.

PORTLBL is a skeleton dBASE II CMD file for printing mailing labels. It may be adapted for your own labeling requirements.

Remaining files on this disk constitute the balance of the EMF system initiated on FOG/APP.045.

FOG/APP.047

CHECKS is a dBASE II checkbook management application. Also, see CHEX on FOG/APP.038. Thanks to Bryan Stallard for categorizing the CHECKS system for the FOG library.

NEWNAMES maintains a file of names and addresses. It was developed by John Gaudio as part of his MBASIC programming tutorial presented in the FOGHORN, February and March, 1984.

SQ-ROOT.CMD, submitted by Verne Kurisu, is an update of the dBASE II command file SQRT.CMD found on FOG/APP.034. Its purpose is to find the square-root of a number. It may be used as a standalone application, or it may be incorporated into your own dBASE programs. ABREV-SQ.CMD is an abbreviated version.

BALANCE is a SuperCalc checkbook statement reconciliation template.

COMMSN compares Merrill-Lynch vs Schwab stock broker commissions. It may need to be updated with the latest commission schedule.

FINANCE performs a variety of financial calculations. Also, see FINANCE found on FOG/APP.011 and FINANAL on FOG/APP.045.

STOCGRPH will display a table of weekly prices of a security. It will also plot the same data. The display may be directed to the screen and/or printer.

COMMSN, FINANCE, and STOCGRPH are MBASIC programs.

FOG/HAK.017

ENCRYPT and DECRYPT, submitted by Wally Matthews of Pomona, CA, are public key encryption/decryption programs based upon an article in BYTE magazine, 10/83. These MBASIC programs need further work and refinement.

QUME3 describes the QD driver for WordStar and a Qume Sprint 3 printer. These files were provided by Rodney Myrvaagnes of New York, NY.

The following files were received from Rick Schmidt of Federal Way, Washington. They all require access to dBASE II.

Files beginning with MENU, plus REPORT1 and TOPOFPAG, are all part of a dBASE II menu control system. I can't understand how it works.

TAXES is an unfinished tax management system. MEDICAL.FRM is part of this system.

The following files were sent by Steven Dyk of Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan.

DISKMON is a disk monitor similar to DU found on FOG/UTL.006 and 019.

DR is another disk directory program.

EDUCATOR is an 8080 code tutorial.

XFORMAT, received from Jack Brown of the Vancouver Portable Computer Club, is supposed to format a Xerox 820 SD disk.

* * * * * * * *

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John Gaudio is an electrical engineer holding two U.S. Patents on computer systems. He's been a consultant to Osborne Computer Corporation and has written several articles for their magazine, The Portable Companion. He continues to write regularly for the newsletters of the First Osborne Group and the Denver Osborne Group, and has spent the last two years helping people to get more from their Osborne Computers.
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Executive Library Notes
June 1984

by Jim Switz

Yet another month has flown by since last I sat down to do this column. Either I'm getting too old or too busy; it's sometimes hard to tell. Fortunately, I can again report that more progress is being made on the Executive front:

Herb Rubenstein of Los Gatos, CA reports that after his Executive monitor completely failed, he ended up disassembling it and found it full of cold solder joints! When he resoldered the entire monitor circuit board, it worked again, so if you're experiencing similar difficulties, you might try the same trick, or have someone do it for you. Getting to the board is a fairly major disassembly, so make sure you know what you're doing if you attempt it. Upon hearing Herb's story, I tore my machine down again (it seems like the 50th time by now!) and found my monitor also full of cold solder joints. So far, my monitor has been pretty good to me, but I resoldered all the connections anyway, as long as I was there.

Speaking of the Exec monitor, Gale Rhoades reports that a replacement for transistor Q103 (see the May 84 ***FOGHORN***, page 44) has been found, sort of. There exists a transistor with the following markings: Manufacturer code SGS, ident. number BU406, which according to Gale will replace Q103. However, I have not been able to track down the manufacturer with this information. Can anyone help? If I discover the source before the next ***FOGHORN***, I'll put it up on the FOG RBBS systems.

As long as we've got our machines torn apart, you may as well swap out resistor R12 on the logic board (that's the BIG circuit board). Clarence Shepard from Dayton, Ohio (another of my regular Foreign Correspondents) has found that changing this 1/4 watt resistor from 470 ohms to 220 ohms will markedly increase the range of contrast control available on the internal monitor. You know what; he's right. I put in the new resistor the same day, and now have fantastic contrast control. Thank you, Clarence. For details on how to tear down your machine to replace this resistor, see the April 84 ***FOGHORN***, page 50. Resistor R12 is in the same resistor bank as R15, on the end.

I promised in the May issue to report which of the screen waver fixes I decided to stick with. Envelope please ..... I think I like the 47 ohm resistor fix the best. It's a little cleaner to install than the diodes, and I very much like having my fan run quieter. I've had this fix in my machine now for over two months, using it up to 12 hours at a stretch, with no monitor or overheating problems. The machine does run a little warmer, but not enough to hurt anything. I've installed this fix in about 8 or 10 machines by now, and no problems have been reported by the recipients.

On to software topics:

At Gale's request, I will not be putting any more "libraried" (.LBR filetype) files on future library disks. This is to make life easier for her and any other RCP/M system operators who put the library disks on their bulletin board systems. It seems that Gale puts all the files on a library disk in one big .LBR file, so that the whole disk can be transferred by modem using just one filename. Unfortunately, it's not possible to place any .LBR files inside other .LBR files, which meant she first had to extract all the files from the .LBRs, then recombine them. My keen senses picked right up on her frustration with this; I only had to hold the phone about two feet from my ear to hear her somewhat agitated comments. One must occasionally bow to pressure; this is one of those times. I do encourage you to investigate the capabilities and uses of .LBR files, however; check out LU3.COM on FOG/EX1.006.

Another "gotcha" has arisen regarding the Exec's BIOS. Those of you who have ordered and received the new BIOS version 1.1 (see the March ***FOGHORN*** for ordering details, page 3), have found that it does fix the printer problems, but another bug has crept in. I don't use alternate character sets (except to check them out for the library), but those who do, such as Richard Boyce, have no doubt noticed that a Control-TAB will no longer switch the character set in and out. I double-checked this, and verified that the new system tracks did indeed support an alternate character set; it's just not possible to get to it from the keyboard anymore. Osborne Computer Corp. has been notified (another added consternation; just what they need right now, isn't it?) and they are working on it, but for now I know of no way to do a swap from the keyboard. However, I did a little playing around, and found that a character set swap can still be done by a program call. I wrote a quick & dirty MBASIC program to send an "ESCAPE a" sequence via a PRINT statement, and sure enough, the character set switched. Sending an "ESCAPE A" will restore the main character set. So the character set swap function still works, we just can't get there from here (the keyboard). A small, compiled assembly language program would be nice to get around the problem for now; any volunteers? If anyone finds a keyboard sequence which works, please phone or write; I'll keep you all posted.

Speaking of volunteers, I'd like to get the word out early this year; I need a volunteer to update the SuperCalc tax templates (on FOG/EX1.012) for next year's tax return filing deadline. Is there a CPA or tax specialist out there with early tax revision information (and SuperCalc experience) who would be willing to perform this task in the Fall? We'd all be grateful; this year's templates came out too late to be of general use. I used them this year for the first time to help me with my taxes, and they worked great; I highly recommend them for "what-if" or "what-can-I-get-away-with" projections.

As mentioned last month, the disk cataloging program CATALOG.LBR (see FOG/EX1.004) has problems if you enable the CP/M time/date stamping option. The cross-reference program XCAT will not show which disk each file is on if time/date stamping is in effect. The same is true of the updated catalog files on FOG/EX1.018 (see below).

For those who are curious, the letter in the March 84 ***FOGHORN***, page 7, from Ben Clark which refers to a "restart" function is not applicable to the Executive. Folks who have tried it (like me) have found that it's great as a keyboard lockout routine to keep anyone (including you) from doing anything further until a reset is performed. The "fault" lies in the fact that the Console Command Processor (CCP) is no longer permanently in memory in CP/M 3.0, but is switched in and out as needed. Thus, a dummy program which does nothing will not return you to the keyboard or anywhere else, but will send your machine out to Pluto, approximately.

A book plug if you want to learn more about things such as CCP's: The new 3rd edition of Thom Hogan's ***Osborne/McGraw-Hill CP/M User Guide*** is out, and has what appears to be very good coverage of CP/M 3.0. Until now, most newer CP/M books had a short Appendix at the back dealing with 3.0, but Thom goes into it in detail. It's published by Osborne/McGraw-Hill, Berkeley, Calif. and costs $17.95 retail (gasp!). I'm afraid that paperback computer books are where it's at for making money, folks.

I'm still whittling away at the bottomless stack of correspondence; if you're waiting for a response or disk returned, please bear with me, I'm getting there. However, if you wish to add to the pile, I certainly don't wish to discourage you. To prove it, I'll publish my address again for maximum masochism:

2435 Tamalpais St. Mountain View, CA 94043
(415) 968-3356, preferably between 6:30 pm and 10:00 pm PDT on weekdays

I've managed to squeeze two new library disks out this month:

FOG/EX1.017

The EXCLOCK collection, by George Peace of Midlothian, Virginia, allows continuous display of the built-in clock of the Executive without interfering with any other machine operation. The various files are as follows:

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DATE.MQC (Squeezed source code for the DATE function)
EXCLOCK.COM (The compiled, ready-to-run program)
EXCLOCK.DQC (Squeezed documentation file)
EXCLOCK.MQC (Squeezed assembly source code for EXCLOCK.COM)
EXCLOCKR.MQC (More squeezed source code)
ROMBANK.MAC (Still more source code)
TIME.MQC (Squeezed source code for the TIME function)
VIDBANK.MAC (Last of the source code files)
EXCLOCK.SUB (A sample SUBMIT file, used to compile EXCLOCK.COM with the M80 compiler)

DU2 is an update version of the Disk Utility 2, updated by Craig Miller from Richard Conn's original program. The full documentation file has not yet arrived, but DU2BRIEF.DQC is a short information file describing most functions and features. In comparison to DU-V86 (see FOG/EX1.006), DU2 offers macro commands, will handle disk drives with capacities up to 512 Megs, and will save groups or sectors of the disk into a queue which can be read or written to the disk. The squeezed source code, DU2V18.AQM, and a short message file, DU2V18.MSG, are included.

FUNNY.CQR is a squeezed character set file, to be used with the CHARGEN program on your CP/M System disk, which produces a funny-looking character set. Great for the kids, looks pretty strange in the office. The author, unfortunately, is unknown.

GETXTIME.CQD is a squeezed dBase II command file which will access the CP/M 3.0 date/time function of the Executive, and automatically load it into dBase when invoked. It was written by Peter C. Hawxhurst, and information may be found at the beginning of the file.

GUSHER.DQC, submitted by Frank Dunaway Jr. of Garden City, NY, is a squeezed documentation file explaining the GUSHER game on FOG/EX1.010. This program was previously lacking any documentation; thanks, Frank!

MDMLINK.COM, by Sigi Kluger, allows easy installation of the MODEM7 overlays (see FOG/EX1.015 for example) to customize your version of the program. MDMLINK.DOC is included for instructions.

NSWP205.COM is yet another update of the new SWEEP file/disk maintenance program by Dave Rand; significantly, this program will now read the correct disk space remaining on the Executive or any other CP/M 3.0 machine. All functions now operate correctly on the Exec. The squeezed documentation, NSWP205.DQC, and a squeezed update file, NSWP205.UQD, are included.

PEEK.COM, by Ron Fowler will monitor, trace and display all BDOS calls made under CP/M 3.0, making the task of debugging a .COM file easier. The program has several options, including a single step mode, which are described in the squeezed PEEK.DQC file. The source code is included in PEEK.AQM and PEEKBDOS.AQM.

SOFTCR.BQS is a squeezed MBASIC program by Andrew Fluegelman, modified by Dane Sumberg, which will translate text files back and forth between Wordstar and IBM PC-DOC formats. SOFTCR.DQC is the squeezed documentation. I have not been able to test this program.

STAT30.COM, by David Krasner and Martin Murray, is a Resident System eXtension (RSX) which will assist in using older CP/M 2.2 programs which use a disk space remaining function, such as the versions of NSWP previously put in the library. The program resides in high memory until the computer is reset and intercepts all space remaining calls, redirecting them to the correct location, providing correct information. The squeezed source code, STAT30.AQM, and documentation, STAT30.DQC, are included.

FOG/EX1.018

BATLSHIP.BQS is a squeezed MBASIC version of the Battleship game. It will provide instructions, if desired, at the opening menu. To use after unsqueezing, load your MBASIC disk in drive A, the disk containing BATLSHIP in drive B, and at the "Ok" prompt, type:

LOAD "B:BATLSHIP",L<cr>

ENSOFT.COM and UNSOFT.COM, by Paul Homchick of Philadelphia, will provide standard text file-to-Wordstar format conversions and vice versa. ENSOFT converts ASCII text to Wordstar, and UNSOFT converts Wordstar text to standard ASCII. Documentation is provided in the text file UNSOFT.DOC, which can be read/printed with Wordstar, NSWP etc.

MCAT43.COM and the following files make up the latest collection of disk cataloging programs by Irv Hoff of Los Altos, CA:

MAST.CAT (A skeleton file I created to get you started. See the doc.files)
MCAT.SQT (Squeezed doc file explaining how to change the filename buffer size)
MCAT43.AQM (Squeezed source code for MCAT43)
MCAT43.COM (The master cataloging program)
MCAT43.DQC (Squeezed documentation for MCAT43)
NULL.AQM (Squeezed source code for NULL.COM)
NULL.COM (Creates a zero-length file; necessary to use MCAT43)
XCAT40.AQM (Squeezed source code for XCAT40.COM)
XCAT40.COM (Cross-indexing file; used with MCAT43 database)
XCAT40.DQC (Squeezed source code for XCAT40.COM NOTE: XCAT40 will not show the disk identifier on which files appear if the CP/M+ time/date stamping option has been enabled!)

RCPM-049.LQT is an updated squeezed text file listing various computer bulletin boards around the country, with information pertaining to each.

RSXSEED.MQC is a squeezed assembly language file by George Peace of Midlothian, Virginia intended to assist in the generation of Resident System eXtensions (RSX's), such as the STAT30 RSX on FOG/EX1.017. Documentation is included as comments at the beginning of the file. I don't pretend to understand the creation of RSX's, and so have not tested this file.

TABSET.COM, by Irv Hoff, will automatically insert TABs into either ASCII or ASM files, and will prompt for the filetype. See TABSET.DOC for information.

TPATCH.COM, by Tim Vold, is designed to patch the Osborne 1 version of Borland's Turbo Pascal to operate correctly on the Executive. I do not yet have Turbo Pascal, and so have not tested this program. Information may be found in TPATCH.DOC.

COM, originally by Creative Computer Services, is an update to VDO-EX, on FOG/EX1.013. Aside from the ability to see the line numbers change as the file loads, I can detect a slight increase in speed of operation as the only noticeable differences.

WSxxxxxx.xxx is a collection of 9 files relating to various patches and patching locations for Wordstar version 3.3, as supplied with the Executive, including automatic logging to the B drive, eliminating the signon messages, etc. I have not checked these files carefully, so be sure to make changes to backup copies of Wordstar. See WSLBR.DIR for a short description of each file.

Note: Squeezed files (those with a Q as the middle character of the filetype) may be unsqueezed using USQ-19, on FOG/EX1.002 or NSWP205, which is on FOG/EX1.017.

See you here next month, OK?

* * * * * * *

Morrow Library: News from the Black Hole

by Steve Reed

Gale Rhoades called me about two months ago to say that all the FOG people were afraid that I had "fallen into a black hole or something," and that they hoped it wasn't permanent. Morrow-owning members may indeed be surprised to see this byline. I apologize for any possible vacuum of information in not getting a column printed these past five months, as had been planned. It was, indeed, a "black hole" (of professional and personal concerns, and their tying up the computer).

I have received a good number of calls from FOG members who own Morrows. With time I hope to return all of your calls (although a postcard is all I can guarantee). One of those I have spoken with may write part of this column. If any others have questions, information, complaints, or anything else that they care to contribute, send any and all material to the following address:

FOG Morrow Interest Group
c/o J.S. Reed
P.O. Box 11296
Chicago, IL 60611-0296

Or, if you wish, you may call me at my answering machine, (312) 764-5828.

I have a special plea to officers or members of user groups specifically for Morrows: please send me your addresses, so that the sharing of information can be made easier! I know that several groups exist; the size and resources of FOG members can help your group and you can help the Morrow owners in our group. To date I have received just one address, accompanied by a fine newsletter:

Connecticut Micro Decision Users Group
773 Dixwell Ave., P.O. Box 5
New Haven, CT 06511

My thanks to CMDUG's Chairman, Dave Mintie, for sending his informative newsletter. I do know that some users groups exist in the San Francisco and San Jose areas, where many FOG members are also...so if you're reading this, send me your address and a sample newsletter. Also let me know if you would be interested in a newsletter exchange with the national ***FOGHORN*** or with FOG chapter newsletters, or both.

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SmartKey notes

I have tested the original version (NOT the newer version) of SmartKey on the Morrow and it works exactly as described. The variation on the original program that permits a "lead-in" key (SMK.COM) is necessary to use the "function" keys on the Morrow-supplied ADM-20 terminal. It would be expected that the newer version (SmartKey2) would operate on the same principles (a self-relocating program, trapping input from the keyboard) but a true judgment will have to await a review of the new version.

Since the Morrow-supplied terminals do not have function keys, a program such as this is extremely worthwhile. (The latest version of the MDM7 modem program, described below, does have 10 internal function keys of its own; these also work on the Morrow.)

One caveat: don't attempt to (R)un SmartKey from within WordStar, if you have not put it into operation already! To attempt it will lock up your computer and require a reset. You can, of course, run SmartKey before WordStar and define/redefine keys while WordStar is operating.

The original version is available until existing stock is gone from "FOG Member Merchandise." SmartKey² should continue to be available.

First two Morrow library disks available

The first two disks of the FOG/Morrow library are now available and three more are nearly finished. Descriptions of the first two are printed below. Please note that these disks are in OSBORNE SD format, as is the main library, NOT in Morrow format. You will need to run the OSB configuration program to read or copy these disks (preferably the latter).

An important note: the Morrow section of the library will NOT attempt to duplicate the entire contents of the main FOG library. This is because the majority of the main library files are either ASCII text files or are machine-independent programs that run without alteration on the Morrow.

I would appreciate it if interested Morrow-owning members would contact me to assist in an alternative measure. A condensed directory of the FOG main library, listing only those programs and files that can be read or run without alteration, will be prepared once enough personpower is found to examine the library disks and weed out those that do not fit the Morrow. The resulting list will become a disk file in the Morrow section of the library. (Kudos to Frank Morton, who suggested this timesaving policy to me at a Chicago FOG meeting last fall, at which I had the pleasure of meeting him.)

All Morrow-section disks may be ordered by their name as any other disks are. Contact Gale Rhoades for availability policies through the monthly update service. For more information, see page 2 of this issue of the ***FOGHORN***.

FOG/MMD.001

MDM730.COM is the final version of Irv Hoff's recent series of modem programs, and contains many useful features: over 20 user toggles, a three-page help screen, function keys, phone number tables, and more. This is the "raw" version, which requires an overlay to be useful. M7MD-1.ASM is the overlay for the Micro Decision computers. You can modify its settings as you choose and then overlay it on MDM730 by following the instructions at the start of the file.

For those who would rather not make the overlay themselves, MODEM.COM is ready to use with a "dumb" modem and SMODEM.COM with a "smart" modem. Note that this program supports Anchor and U.S. Robotics "smart" modems as well as the Hayes modems. Note also that these versions have made the screen clear (ctrl-Z) operative; to do so with the M7MD-1 overlay, change the setting to enable display of control characters above ctrl-M.

M7FNK.COM modifies the ten function keys that are available within the modem program. (Note: SmartKey works at all times when running MDM730.) Documentation is in the .DQC file.

M7NUM.COM modifies entries in the phone number table of the modem program. Documentation is in the .DQC file. The table can also be completely replaced, or settings made for long distance services, by using the number overlay, M7NM-6.ASM.

FOG/MMD.002

MDM730.DQC is the extensive documentation for the modem program on the preceding disk.

TYPE109.COM will display any ASCII or squeezed ASCII file on your terminal.

NSWP199H.COM and NSWP205.COM are two versions of Dave Rand's outstanding NSWP file utility. The 1.99H version is 8K and contains all the file utilities EXCEPT squeezing a file, for those who only need to examine squeezed files or make them "normal." The 2.05 version has the squeeze capability, but is 12K. Note: the paging command (V) is slightly different between these versions.

XAMN.COM is a disk utility program with help screens (originally from FOG/UTL.016).

Two versions of FINDBAD are present: FBAD-SYS.COM will check the system tracks (this DOES work for Morrows and will adapt itself to disks in an Osborne-configured drive as well). FBAD-DAT.COM checks the data tracks only.

UNERA17.COM will restore a file to the disk directory immediately after inadvertent erasing. (From FOG/UTL.009.)

XDIR.COM is the Extended Directory utility that was provided by Osborne on its bundled software disks. It is in the public domain, and is included for the special benefit of those who have the articles in early issues of the ***FOGHORN*** or Portable Companion about creative uses for XDIR in keeping track of your disks. It is also a fine utility in itself.

D.COM permits you to "freeze" your directory (for example, on a system disk or master WordStar disk) and find out what additions or deletions have been made to it later on. The .DOC file has a description. (From FOG/UTL.003.)

I would like to thank the sysops of the West Suburban (Illinois) and Hinsdale (Illinois) RCP/M systems for the modem programs and some of the others listed above.

And if anyone reading has just bought a modem, as I did last fall, and has discovered the delights of bulletin boards and RCP/M systems...you can understand a small part of the reason I disappeared from the ***FOGHORN*** for a while. Oh well, at least it enabled me to secure the latest versions of these programs...

* * * * * * *

SuperCalc Tip - 80 Column

Here is the tip that many of you have really been waiting for, at least those of you that have the Screen-Pac option.

The problem has been that when you try to LOAD a file that was created under the 52 column format, it does not convert to the 80 or 104 column display.

The solution:

— LOAD the file that you wish to convert
— Make a note of the range of the model, that is, the last cell in the model
— Make a note of any columns that are defined at other than the standard width, and with a different format ($,I,G)
— Zap the display to return to a blank worksheet
— Modify any columns to match the model to be modified
— /L(oad), filename, **P(ART)** when prompted for range, give the FULL range of the model which you previously determined
— /S(ave) the file

At this point, you have sucessfully converted your model to the 80 column format.

Allan R. Pratt

* * * * * * *

EXECUTIVE

Free disk space in CP/M 3.0

by Kenji Nakadegawa

While reading the February issue of the ***FOGHORN***, I noticed a plea for help with the problem of determining free space on disk drives under CP/M 3.0. I just finished converting a version of XDIR.COM to run under both 2.2 and 3.0 so I'll tell you what I found.

Many "extended" directory programs use something called the allocation vector to determine the used and free space on a disk. The allocation vector is effectively a map of the used and free blocks on the disk. Reading through my CP/M 3.0 documentation I found that banked 3.0 systems (any system with more than 64K ram e.g. OsExec1) often keep the allocation vector in bank 0 which cannot be accessed by transient programs. That is why you get strange answers for space remaining when using programs like XDIR and SWEEP. Fortunately there is a new BDOS function number 46 that returns free space on a specified drive.

Here is an example of 8080 assembly code which shows a good way to get the free space of a drive under CP/M 3.0. I took this code straight from the source listing of SUPER DIRECTORY PROGRAM v7.2 10/16/83 by Bruce R. Ratoff. I hope he doesn't mind.

Bear in mind that all symbolic labels in this example were set by equates or ds statements elsewhere in the program. For example in the CALL CPM statement, CPM is a subroutine which calls bdos (location 05h) after saving all registers, and VERFLAG is a memory location specified by a ds statement at the end of the program.

```
;
EXCERPT 1,
; (This bdos call gets the version # for later conditional actions.)
;
        MVI     C,12        ; get and save the cp/m version #
        CALL    BDOS
        MOV     A,L
        STA     VERFLG      ; (The current cp/m version number
                            is stored here. See your
                            documentation.)
        CPI     20H
;
; a carry flag set after the cpi 20h means you have cp/m 1.4
;
EXCERPT 2,
;(The routine FREE20 gets the free space on the drive by the old method.)
;
FREE:   LDA     VERFLG      ; check version #
        CPI     30H         ; 3.0?
        JC      FREE20      ; use old method if not
        LDA     FCB         ; get drive #
; (The drive number is stored as A-P = 1-16 in this program. CP/M wants
  the drive number as 0-15.)
        DCR     A
        MOV     E,A         ; use new compute free space bdos
                            call
        MVI     C,46
        CALL    CPM
; (The number of free sectors is returned as a 3 byte binary number in the
  first three bytes of the current DMA buffer which is in this case the
  default buffer at 80h. The format is lsb in 80h, midsb in 81h, and msb in
  82h. Since the number represents 128 byte sectors and we want it in 'K'
  we have to divide it by 8 which in binary is 3 shift rights.)
        MVI     C,3         ; answer is a 24-bit integer
;
FRE3L1: LXI     H,BASE+82H  ; answer is in 1st 3 bytes of dma adr
        MVI     B,3         ; convert it from sectors to k
        ORA     A           ; by dividing by 8
;
FRE3L2: MOV     A,M
        RAR
        MOV     M,A
        DCX     H
        DCR     B
        JNZ     FRE3L2      ; loop for 3 bytes
        DCR     C
        JNZ     FRE3L1      ; shift 3 times
        LHLD    BASE+80H    ; now get result in k
        SHLD    SAVFRE      ; store it
```

We now have the free space on the drive stored at location SAVFRE in binary or hex. You can use the hex word to 4 decimal digit output routine which I assume you already have somewhere else in the program to output this number to the console or whatever.)

* * * * * * * *

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Patch WordStar to Help Level 2 on the Executive

by Alex. F. Burr

The article of almost this title by Bob Hamilton in the March ***FOGHORN*** (p.13) was like many of the ***FOGHORN*** articles — clear, easy-to-follow for beginners, and devoid of any reference to the Executive. His article really should have been subtitled "for the Osborne 1". Actually the operating system and software for the Executive is quite a bit more user friendly, forgiving, and easier to customize.

The following steps will change the initial help level for WordStar 3.3 on the Executive. Place the INSTALL disk with the files WINSTALL.COM and WS.INS on drive A. Place a working copy of WordStar in drive B. At the A> prompt type WSINSTAL or push the reset button and the return key.

Answer the prompts until the computer asks "Enter the disk drive name ...". You respond "B:". The computer than asks "Name of file to install ...". If you have not customized the name of your WordStar program, you should answer "B:WS.COM". Do not follow the instruction on page 178 of volume 2 of the Executive instruction manuals. If you have renamed your WordStar file, type in that name. Do not forget the B: prefix.

The computer next asks if you want to change the name. Some people do. I do not. The computer asks (twice) if you really want it to do what you told it to do. Answer "Y" both times. Don't be afraid of mistakes because the program allows you to back out with no changes and besides you are using only a copy of a working WordStar disk aren't you?

The installation menu then comes up. You should request alternative E. The menu of WordStar features then appears. You should request feature A. The initial help level choices then appear. Answer B if you want level 2. The computer asks you to confirm the help level. Enter "Y". The feature menu returns. Enter X to work you way out. The installation menu appears again. An X will cause the computer to list your current options and give you a last chance to change anything. An "A" will complete the reset of the help level. You will now find that you have more room on the screen to hold the file you are working on, and that the list of options for the ^ keys will come up when you need them. Most people find that this is the best combination after they have had a bit of experience with the WordStar program.

* * * * * * *

Booting the EXECUTIVE Faster and Autoloading with EXECST.COM

by Gary Burleson

If you are getting bored with the seemingly interminable wait for programs to load in your Executive here are a few things you can do to save precious seconds. The EXECST.COM file on your system disks (Version 3.0) serves two purposes. First, it is the source of the big Osborne O logo that appears on boot-up. Second, it executes the automatic loading of programs such as WordStar and SuperCalc. I will show you how to make it autoload any program you want, and do it faster.

If there are no programs you want to autoload on a disk, (on your three CP/M 3 utilities disks, for example) you will save a few seconds of bootup time by simply erasing EXECST.COM or changing its name so CP/M 3 won't be able to automatically call it. It is a read-only file so you will either have to use SET.COM to change it to read-write before you render it invisible, or you will have to use PIP.COM with the R and W options toggled. Considering the promises Osborne didn't keep after it sold me the Executive, I find eliminating that repetitious O logo has improved the psychic atmosphere around the computer.

Even better, you can keep the autoloading feature, on your WordStar disk, for example, and still skip the logo. Here is the patch: after you have changed EXECST.COM in the B drive to read-write, put the advanced utilities disk in the A drive and type SAVE. When the A> prompt comes back type SID B:EXECST.COM. When the SID prompt comes, type:

S101<cr>
26<cr>
02<cr>
.<cr>

It will now jump over the part of the program that sends the logo and one of the Osborne blurbs to the screen.

Before you SAVE it, if you want to make EXECST.COM automatically load a program when you boot up the disk, count the number of letters in the name of your program, add one to that number, then type: S255<cr> and enter the hex-byte equivalent of the number you arrived at. For example, if your file is called GASKET.COM you don't need the .COM to load it, so you would type 07<cr>. Then you enter the hex values of the letters in your filename. In this example they would be:

47<cr>
41<cr>
53<cr>
4B<cr>
45<cr>
54<cr>
00<cr>
.<cr>

EXECST.COM makes a BDOS call that requires the final '00'.

Now type G<cr>. You will be prompted for the name of the file you are saving. Type B:EXECST.COM<cr>, and y<cr> to the next prompt. You will be asked for the bottom and top addresses. They are 100 and 0B00 respectively. You are now finished.

By the way, when the program you are booting up is WordStar, with a little alertness you can save 3 or 4 more seconds. The first instant the WordStar logo graphics appears on the screen hit either the <esc> key or the letter of the first command you are going to use in WordStar. Instead of dallying, the logo and the copyright blurb will flash away before your eyes, and either the WordStar menu will appear or your command will already have begun executing.

You shave off a few seconds here, a few seconds there, and the computer becomes less of a barrier between you and your spontaneous interaction with the power of the software.

* * * * * * *

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We also have information about many other groups throughout the world. Any person sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a description of their geographic area will be given the name(s) and address(es) of the group(s) nearest them. If you know of a group that may not be listed with FOG, please send any details available to you. We would like to know the names and addresses of the officers; time, date, and place of meetings; contact phone numbers; and any other details that will assist us in referring others to the group.

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98. **Jacksonville Osborne Users Group (JOUG)**
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99. **South King Osborne Group (SKOG)**
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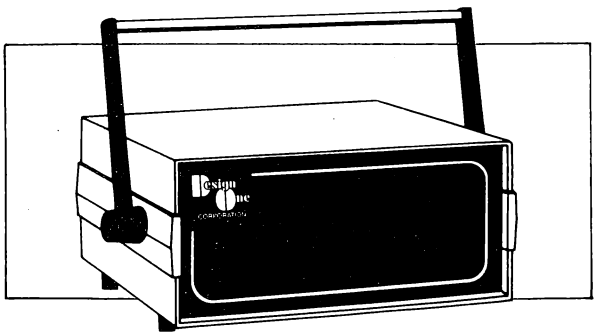

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FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE

With the introduction of Media Master from DG/Systems, most members do not need the more expensive UNIFORM. While the two programs are similar in purpose, there are some important differences. Media Master will work on the Executive, UNIFORM will not. UNIFORM is $40.00 more expensive than Media Master.

If you are interested primarily in transferring data files from a non-CP/M 2.2 formatted disk, there is no difference in the method used by both programs. ONLY if you own a Morrow, KayPro, or double density Osborne 1 and want to edit a large volume of files on a disk formatted by another CP/M 2.2 system should you consider purchasing UNIFORM. This is because UNIFORM will allow your B: drive to emulate the drive of the other system. You can then use WordStar, NSWEEP, PIP, etc. on the foreign disk.

FOG will continue to carry UNIFORM because most dealers will not carry this software. You should order Media Master directly from DG/Systems.

We are apparently not going to be able to get SmartKey and SmartPrint any more. When existing stock is gone, orders will be returned. SmartKey2 and SmartPrint2 **are** still available and we anticipate no difficulty in obtaining these. It appears that neither version of these programs will yet work on the Executive. Despite several tries, the programmer has not yet be successful in correcting the problems. If you have previously purchased these programs for your Executive, pleasereturn the complete package for a full refund.

SmartKey² is $89.95, SmartPrint² is $49.95. If you get both at the same time, the price is $129.95.

As noted previously, C.I. Software has made their program HexPrintR® available to the membership. The price is $39.00. This program works with WordStar to give you full control over your dot matrix printer.

In December, we reported the addition of the book on WordStar by Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes. This book is a must for anyone looking for assistance in using WordStar. The price of ***Pocket Guide to WordStar*** is $7.25.

One of the most popular items in the FOG inventory is the T-shirts with the FOG logo. These T-shirts are soft Osborne blue in color and are Hanes 100% cotton. They are cut large to allow for shrinkage. Sizes available are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44), and X-large (46-48).

The price is $8.00 each (two for $15.00) for members and $10.00 each for non-members so be sure to include your membership number. Add $1.00 for shipping.

CP/M Extension Utilities were reviewed in Vol. I, Issue 10. Unprotect is an 8080/8085/Z80 machine language program which runs under CP/M. Its purpose is to decrypt Microsoft BASIC (Release 5) files which have been saved in a protected format. It is hoped that anyone buying and using this software will remember that this program should only be used to correct errors in PROTECTed files of which you have a legal copy. Please bear in mind that piracy is both illegal and a sure way to reduce the software available for your use.

We also have available a set of two cassette tapes which are designed for the new Osborne user. Created for a 1.2 rev. model Osborne, the tapes will be very helpful if listening to a step-by-step procedure is an easier way for you (or the family) to learn. The tapes are equally useful for a 1.3 or 1.4 rev. Osborne as the only real change the that the FORMAT program is now a part of the COPY program. (On the 1.2 rev. these were two separate programs.) The set of tapes are $25.00

California members please add sales tax to the cost of any of these items. Overseas members should add first class airmail postage to the cost of any of the FOG merchandise.

Prices on the merchandise are as follows:

SmartKey2 only	$89.95
SmartPrint2 only	$49.95
SmartKey2/SmartPrint2	$129.95
CP/M Ext. Utility Pkg	$39.00
Unprotect	$29.00
UNIFORM	$69.95
HexPrintR	$39.00
SmartKey1 only (remaining stock)	$60.00
SmartPrint1 only (remaining stock)	$35.00
T-shirts	$8.00
	2 for $15.00
WordStar Guide	$7.25
Cassette Tapes	$25.00
LIBRARY DIRECTORY	$5.00
OCC-1 — Centronics cable	$39.95
6" X 4.5" fresnel screen enlarger	$19.95

To order any of these items, please send your payment to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please include your membership-account number. If shipment cannot be made, your check will be returned. We cannot sell the manuals separately.

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The **F**irst **O**sborne **G**roup (**FOG**) has been formed as a User's Group for persons using or interested in portable computers and/or the CP/M disk operating system with related software. In June of 1984, there was nearly 12,000 members from around the world. Most attend meetings at over 300 locations.

Computer systems owned or used by members include the Osborne 1 (single and double density), the Osborne Executive, all models of the Morrow MicroDecision, the Zorba, all models of the KayPro, the Micromate, the Lobo Max, and many others. Special interest groups being organized to augment a network of local group meetings include dBASE II, ham radio, Personal Pearl, etc.

Dues in FOG are $24.00 per year. This entitles each member to a copy of the ***FOGHORN*** each month as well as access to the disk library and the RBBS-RCP/M. Local group meetings are open to the public without charge although access to the disk library is restricted to the membership. The FOG library contains only software copyrighted for the public domain. Piracy (the copying of proprietary software) is strongly condemned.

In the United States, the ***FOGHORN*** is normally mailed by non-profit bulk mail. (FOG is a corporation in the state of California and has obtained its non-profit, tax exempt status from both the state and federal governments.) For those who live out of the U.S., or those who prefer first class delivery of their ***FOGHORN***, additional postage must be added to the annual dues. See the chart on page 2 for details. Page 2 also contains most membership information.

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